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THE CHRONICLES

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WILLIAM AND THE WILKINS

BY THE EDITOR

THE CHRONICLES

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THE CHRONICLES

OF

THE CATARACT:

OR

WELLAND AND THE WELLANDERS.

BY SIMON THE ELDER.

"Ridet annus, prata rident nosque rideamus."

DRUMMONDVILLE, NIAGARA FALLS.

1856.

DEDICATION.

TO JOHN FRAZER, Esq., M. D., M. P. P.

Warden of the County of Welland:

Having been induced, through the solicitations of many friends, to collect together and publish in one volume, the first ten books of the CHRONICLES OF THE CATARACT, I naturally looked around me for some prominent and influential person under whose protection I could safely trust my little work. Finding you, sir, placed by the people at the head-political of this county, and the following chapters having been written for the instruction and amusement of the people thereof, I concluded at once to dedicate them to you. It now only remains for me to add my earnest hope that you will excuse the many and glaring imperfections contained in the following chapters, and by not criticizing them too closely, oblige

Your most obedient humble servant,

SIMON THE ELDER.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, GREETING:

Know ye, that it having reached our venerable ears that several of our beloved brethren and loving disciples in this neighborhood have taken to themselves some of the characters portrayed by us, in our very valuable and learned epistles of the CHRONICLES OF THE CATARACT, and that others of our brethren have uncharitably charged their neighbors as being the parties meant by us, these are therefore to caution all such persons to be more guarded for the future. We well know—to use an old adage—that where caps are hung out, people will be trying them on. If, therefore, the said caps fit too tightly, or in other words, pinch, the fault lays with the foolish and weak brethren who persist in wearing them, and not with us. From our great love and excessive kindness for our brethren, we are prepared to fit those vain enough to wear such head dresses more to their taste and comfort, should they favor us with a call and leave their orders.

Given under our hand and seal, at our encampment in the neighborhood of the Great Cataract, this twelfth day of May, in the year of grace one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

SIMON THE ELDER.

P R E F A C E.

It has been the source of much amusement to me during the publication of the following chapters in the Reporter, to know, that with all their imperfections, several worthies have been, and I believe, still are, endeavoring to induce the public to believe them to be the writers of the articles in question, attempting by sly insinuations to palm themselves off as the real *Simon Pure*, while others have been as pertinaciously determined to put the authorship on some unoffending neighbor or friend. I am also aware that much time and ingenuity have been fruitlessly expended in the vain attempt of stripping me of my incognito, and thereby exposing me to the chances of actions at law, assault and battery, &c., from those whose fertility of imagination led them to believe some one of the characters portrayed by me to have been sketched from life, and that life their own. Often have I heard the expression, "Ah! how like such an one; I must go and show it to him." Being perfectly unsuspected, I have strolled along to hear what, perchance, the presumed hero of the chapter had to say. In this manner have I often received the highest compliments possible—for all which I now beg to return sincere thanks, at the same time would beg leave to hint in the faintest manner possible, that attempting to find me out is so much like seeking for a needle in a bundle of hay, as to cause my risible faculties considerable exercise.

When I sat down to write this my first (and I think in all probability my last) preface, it was with the intention of making it as short as possible, for if a great book is a great evil, (and some old coon or other has said so,) a great preface is a great nuisance. The fact is, had it not been out of respect for fashion—phew! Simon following the fashion—I think I hear you say so, kind reader—but don't disturb me—I left off at fashion—I should have sent this little work out into the world like Paddy's baby to the christening,

without a shirt, for in my mind a preface is to a book what a shirt is to the body—a sort of covering.

Is it not astonishing how much a person may write, and how little to the purpose. Here have I been nibbling the top of my quill and scribbling for the last half hour, and yet have not told you one word about the contents of the great book whose preface I am cheating myself into the belief I am writing. There is one consolation, however, nobody ever reads a preface; but should they read this, for I must confess I would feel hurt if they did not, I would say to them, so far as my book is concerned, it has been no fault of mine if the hints given, the lessons taught, the lectures contained, or the instruction attempted to be conveyed therein, are not tolerably palatable, for I have administered each one in the most delectable form, and capable of being retained by the—mind—as the M. D.'s would say, the vehicle being the most pleasant and enticing that I could invent. I am aware that there are a few particularly nauseating pills, draughts and boluses, which I could find no means of rendering as sweet as I could have wished, and for them I must request some little indulgence. I wish the reader to understand that I am aware of the imperfections which exist in the following pages, and that therefore any attempt at criticism will not enlighten me, nor add one single laurel to the brow of him who dares attempt it. The chapters were written hurriedly, and at the spur of the moment, for a weekly newspaper, from which, perchance, they should never have been reprinted. If so, the public are alone to blame, for I can assure you, kind reader, my modesty would always have prevented me from forcing myself a second time on your notice; but as the tree falls so it lies, and as the Chronicles of the Cataract are reprinted, and the printer waiting for this preface, for better or for worse, I am sending them forth to the people of this county, and if I fall, so let me be.

SIMON THE ELDER.

CHRONICLES OF THE CATARACT.

BOOK FIRST.—CHAPTER ONE.

1. Now it came to pass that in the fifteenth year of the reign of Victoria, Queen of the Kingdom of Britain, that William the Lank was Governor over a small territory in the neighborhood of the Mighty Cataract, where he had held undisputed sway for many years.

2- And William was exceedingly puffed up with conceit, and said, in the words of his ancient namesake, I am Sir Oracle, and when I ope my mouth let no dog bark.

3. And it also came to pass, that about the beginning of the year, the people of the territory were called upon to choose new rulers to administer the laws for them, and William the Lank coveted the office of Chief Ruler of the Council of Five, but many there were who thought that he did not walk in the straight paths of wisdom and justice, but preferred the crooked ones which often lead to deceit; they therefore did not wish to have him again chosen Chief Ruler.

4. But William leagued himself with John of the Woods, who was also exceedingly wise in his own conceit, and much puffed up with knowledge of the law, and said unto him, Tickle me, Johnny, tickle me, do; you tickle me, and I'll tickle you. And John answered him and said, O, William, thus will I do unto thee: inasmuch as we belong unto different parties of the people, yet must we hang together like old shirts on a clothes-line; I will raise my voice for thee to be chosen Chief Ruler, and thou must use all thine influence to create me thy Lieutenant.

5. And furthermore did John speak in this wise: I have spoken to William the Large, and also to Jacob the Corpulent, whom I prefer to thee, but they will not consent to make me Lieutenant, but I think that James the Honest will go with us, and thus can we defeat these obstinate men.

6. And William the Lank then agreed to John's proposal, saying, We will go across the way, even unto the house that Jack built, and there hold secret council—thou, James and I—we will also invite William the Large to join with us, and give him strong drink, and when he has drank thereof, it may come to pass that he will lift his voice in our behalf.

7. Accordingly, before the appointed time for the meeting of the Council of Five, William the Lank and John of the Woods proceeded to the Typographical Seminary, over which William the large was presiding elder, and entreated him to pass over the street to the house that Jack built, and partake of some strong drink for the benefit of his cold, and to enable him to go through with his duties.

8. Now William the Large was not addicted to the use of strong drink, and therefore refused to accompany them; but Jacob the Corpulent was not invited, and James the Honest shortly after passing that way, went in with them to the secret conclave, thinking, honest man, that he was doing good unto the people over whom he ruled.

9. Now it came to pass, that when the secret conclave was ended, and William, John and James had decided upon the manner in which the people should be governed, and who should be their rulers, they left the house that Jack built, and proceeded towards the Council House, after the manner of a flock of geese, which they very much resembled.

10. And when they had arrived thereat, William the Lank raised his voice and called William the Large and Jacob the Corpulent into a back apartment kept by Richard, the Scribe of the Council, as a room for culinary purposes, saying unto them, O, my brother Rulers, I know that either one of you is more capable of performing the duties of my Lieutenant than John of the Woods; now, therefore, if you will consent to cast your lots for me, I will so manage that one or the other shall be my Lieutenant.

11. Then William the Large opened his mouth and spake these words, O, Ruler, never will I consent to act the second part in torturing cat-gut with thee. And William the Lank left them in high wrath, saying, In this territory my will is law.

12. And after the Rulers had met in Council, William the Lank was chosen Chief Ruler, and John of the Woods was chosen to be his Lieutenant, by raising his voice in his own behalf, which exceedingly vexed Richard the Scribe, and he immediately stood upon his feet, and cried with a loud voice, saying, From henceforth, O Rulers, must you procure another person to serve you as Scribe, for my conscience will not allow me to record such iniquities.

13. Now Richard the Scribe was a just man, but exceedingly mulish in his disposition, and not easily turned from his purpose. He was also a very useful man in the territory, but William the Lank and John of the Woods were exceedingly glad when he went from among them, for he had been a thorn in their sides for many days.

14. Now in former years, Richard had procured himself a *wreath of straw*, which he wore continually, except when in the presence of the Rulers. And William the Large and Jacob the Corpulent were exceedingly grieved when they saw Richard clothe his head in his venerable Straw, and walk with dignity from the room.

15. Now the rest of the acts of the Five Rulers near the Great Cataract, lo! are they not written in the second chapter of the Chronicles of Simon the Elder?

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. Now when the Council of Five, who were the Rulers over the people of a small territory near the Great Cataract, had finished their deliberations, and had departed, each towards his separate home, William the Lank proceeded to another small place which lay in his path, and sought out Denis the Nervous, and thus spake to him:

2. O, Denis! Richard the Scribe hath refused to serve the Council any longer, and hath contumaciously said that he will record no more of the acts of the assembled wisdom of the territory; therefore do I humbly entreat of thee to perform his functions.

3. And Denis was unwilling to accept the honor which William sought to thrust upon him, but was over-persuaded by the Chief Ruler, and straightway agreed thereto.

4. Then William the Lank passed over the highway, even unto the house of Abraham the Publican, and in the name of the Five Rulers, hired a Council Chamber of him; but William did these acts without the knowledge or consent of his brother rulers, which gave great offence to the people over whom he ruled.

5. Now be it understood, that the copies of all the laws, and all the papers which had the great seal of the territory thereon, were still in the house of Richard the Scribe, and therefore the next meeting of the rulers was held thereat. And when the time came for the next assembly, and after their deliberations had come to an end, William the Large

stood upon his feet and proposed that their meetings should hereafter be held at "the house that Jack built," to which Jacob the Corpulent cried, Yea! so let it be.

6. Thus it came to pass that William the Lank was prevented from removing the sittings of the Rulers from the chief town of the territory, as he wickedly desired; and William the Large grew in the eyes of the people for keeping the archives, and the wisdom of the Rulers within the limits of the chief town.

7. But William the Lank, and John of the Woods, and James the Honest opened not their mouths, and so it came to pass that the next meeting of the Council was held at "the house that Jack built." But William the Large was unable to attend, being engaged at the time with Saul of the Rock, who was also a crier of goods.

8. Now it came to pass, that at this time the Rulers of the Kingdom of Great Britain were waging a terrible war with the people of a savage nation, and many of the fighting men were killed, leaving their wives and children destitute, and their homes desolate. And the people of all parts of the kingdom were giving from their abundance to aid in relieving the wants of the destitute.

9. Now John the Busy, who was Governor over the Principalities of Lincoln and Welland, issued a decree, ordering the Rulers of the small territories to call together the people thereof, in order that they might deliberate upon the best means of helping the widows and orphans of the warriors who had perished in the distant country.

10. Then William the Lank straightway put forth his decree, and called upon the people of the territory over which he ruled, to gather together on the last day of the week, at the house that Jack built. But the people, seeing the lukewarmness of William the Lank and John of the Woods, did not gather numerously.

11. Now when the people had gathered together, behold William had not prepared the proper writings, which it was his duty to have done. But the people looked leniently upon his short-comings, well knowing that he could not have drawn up the writings properly.

12. Now therefore, when William the Lank had done his utmost to discourage the people, he sat himself down and wept that he could injure the cause no further.

13. And when he had taken his seat, John the Testy, also called the Leech, stood upon his feet, and cried unto the people with a loud voice, but the people understood not what he said, neither heeded they his words, and John the Testy sat down much chagrined.

14. Now among the people there present was a certain Goliah, a fierce man of the sword, from a far country, who was exceedingly wroth, and he stood up in their midst and rebuked William the Lank with great spirit and wisdom.— And Goliah's rebuke would have made *any other man* feel ashamed, but William heeded it not.

15. Then arose a Chief Priest of the Synagogue in the chief town, and spake unto the people, and gave the people good advice, but the people listened not unto his words as they should have done, but turned away their heads, and closed their ears.

16. Now there was a certain man in the assembly called Adam, who had been a publican and a sinner. He it was who stood forward in their midst, and assisted the High Priest to overcome the prejudices of the people, and the people cried with one accord, let it be even as thou sayest.

17. And after Adam, arose John the Schneider, who made a desperate effort to speak, but behold, when he opened his mouth, his tongue clave to the roof thereof, and he convinced not the people. Then arose Philip the Swearer, a desperate man, one who tilled the ground and eat of the fruit thereof, a man whose determination was great; and he it was who convinced the people, and they cried let it be even as thou sayest.

18. Then James the Honest, who saith that an honest man needeth watching, quickly stood up, and proposed to do mighty things in the name of the people, and with the people's money.

19. Now the words of James exceedingly vexed William the Farmer, who severely and justly rebuked him, saying, O thou of little charity, who refused to give bread to the widows and orphans that thou knowest, yet would'st send large supplies to those of whom thou knowest nothing. And James felt rebuked, and could only answer, in his native language—whisht!

20. But most of all were the people pleased with the words of Goliah the man of war, who did himself exceeding great honor, and found much favor in the sight of those assembled together that day, for they thought his skill lay in feats of the sword, and not in the use of the tongue.

21. Now in the third chapter of the Chronicles of Simon the Elder, will be found recorded the further acts of the Five Rulers, and also of some of their subordinates.

CHAPTER THIRD.

1. In the third chapter of the Chronicles of the Cataract, thus speaketh Simon the Elder:

2. O, ye men of Stamford, much are you in need of chastisement, and I, even I, Simon the Elder, will administer it unto thee, but gently, even as a loving mother uses the rod on a spoiled child. For you are a perverse and stiff-necked generation, having Mammon for your idol, and bowing your heads before the Golden Calf.

3. But much I fear that the truth will be like gall and wormwood on your palates, therefore will I administer it to you in Homœopathic doses, and not after the Alopathic manner of John the Testy, which first maketh thee sick that thou mayest be made well.

4. Now for many years hath there been a law in the Principalities of the kingdom of Britain to the effect that no man shall sell strong drink to his neighbor, to make him drunk, nor to the stranger that tarrieth within his gates, without paying a certain number of shekels for the privilege of so doing.

5. Now therefore, certain wise men, to the number of five are chosen every year from among the people, to go about and enquire who are worthy to be trusted with this privilege. And among the applicants they found few that were worthy, and many unworthy.

6. And it came to pass that in the 15th year of the reign of Victoria the Queen, there were chosen the following persons to fill this important office.

7. Charles the Cooper, whose looks were red and fiery; William the Farmer, a follower of John the Baptist; Harmonius the Hunter, who had formerly been a Publican; John the Ice-breaker, and Barnabas the Staid.

8. Now when the day came for the meeting of these five, there gathered together many publicans and sinners, and behold Charles the Cooper and William the Farmer stood forth and declared that it was not just to give the privilege of selling strong drink to those who, when men were made drunken thereon, were not provided with beds wherein to lay them, that they might sleep themselves sober.

9. And Barnabas the Staid at first agreed thereto, but Adam, a relation of his, made his appearance in the assembly, and immediately thereafter, Barnabas saw through Adam's spectacles, and went over to the side of Harmonius and John.

10. Now the reason why Adam influenced Barnabas to do this thing was as follows: Adam's eldest male issue was

James the Big, a dealer in broken-winded horses and dubiously encased time pieces, who also kept a high tower on the hill where strong drink was sold. And Adam was the owner of the tower, and of all the lands round about.

11. And it therefore came to pass, that when Charles the Cooper and William the Farmer saw that Barnabas had proved untrue to the cause of order, they gave up all hopes, and said unto the rest, Have it even as thou wilt.

12. And so every one that asked for the privilege of selling strong drink, to every one was such privilege granted, even unto Patrick the Hermit of the Cave, where the Charioteers of the vicinity do meet and carouse over poor whiskey and cat-fish soup.

13. Thus have ye, O inhabitants of Stamford, allowed this wickedness to receive the sanction of your countenance, by choosing three unfit men to oversee and license certain houses to sell strong drink. Verily, I say unto ye, tares have ye sown, and tares shall ye reap. The day is at hand when ye shall bitterly repent thereof.

BOOK SECOND.—CHAPTER ONE.

1. In the year of grace, 1856, a mighty and virtuous Queen ruled over the nations and tribes of a powerful people, known to all the other nations of the earth, and feared and dreaded thereby.

2. Now this Queen's name was Victoria, and the people over whom she ruled were called Anglo Saxons.

3. Among the numerous tribes and tongues which owned allegiance to this mighty Queen, were a mixed and motley race called Canadians, a people descended from all the nations of the earth, but a people hating tyranny and oppression, and great lovers of liberty.

4. In the 16th year of the reign of Victoria, there arose among this people a prophet called Gilbert, who was also chief steward to one Samuel, known far and wide among this people as the Great Railroad King.

5. Now Samuel was also a buyer of lands and a builder of houses; and it came to pass that among other lands which Samuel purchased, were those of Philip, a man of deeds and not of words. These lands lay near the Great Cataract.

6. In the eighth year of the reign of Victoria purchased he these lands, which he placed in the charge of Gilbert, his chief steward.

7. Now Gilbert, besides his power of foretelling future events, was also collector of a tribute called Customs—a receiver and deliverer of written and printed documents, called Post Master—a discounter of bills and loaner of money, called Banker—chief overseer of a certain species of conveyance whereby travelers are conveyed from one part of the country to the other with great speed—the representative of a small portion of the people in his neighborhood—and a protector of the peace and punisher of evil doers—also a scribe under the government, with the power of administering oaths.

8. Thus, therefore, Gilbert was raised mightily in his own estimation, and sought to lay violent hands on his neighbor's lands.

9. And he said to his master Samuel, O Samuel, thou hast been laying out thy treasure in the purchase of many and fine fields and vineyards, and thou hast built many and large buildings, and I, even I, O Samnel, have watched carefully over thy interests, and yet, O Samuel, thy returns are as nothing.

10. Now I pray thee O Samuel, to allow thy servant to do this little thing. Empower me to wait on the Great Sanhedrim now sitting in the chief town of our country, and pray that the lands, and houses, and vineyards, yea, even the very cattle and swine of thy neighbors be annexed to thine own.

11. And Samuel raised his voice and said, thou art a far-seeing and wise man, and I have great confidence in thy business talents, and if thou can'st convince me that by so doing, thou can'st add one talent to my revenue, thou may'st do that thing.

12. And Gilbert opened his mouth and spake, O Samuel, thy servant is as dust and ashes in thy presence, but as thou hast granted to thy servant permission to speak plainly before thee, be it even as thou sayest.

13. Know therefore, O Samuel, that even thy great wealth and the talents of thy servant, are unequal to the task of making a mighty city on the lands whereon we now live, for this people are a perverse people, and will not hearken to our voice, nor pay tribute to us, without which, O Samuel, we are as nought, and my labors and thy wealth even as nothing.

14. Therefore, O Samuel, thy servant has forged a chain for this people—a chain stronger than iron—and we will bind them therewith. And we will deprive them of their boasted liberty, and when they are fast bound, we will dispoil them of their heritage and add it to thine own.

15. And Samuel said, peradventure the Sanhedrim will not suffer this thing, for they also love liberty.

16. And Gilbert said, verily I say unto thee, O Samuel, that with thy assistance I have been able to do many great things, let thy servant do even this.

17. And Samuel said, thou may'st attempt it, but the members of the Sanhedrim are many and wise, and I fear the perversity of some.

18. And Gilbert said, fear not. And Samuel departed to his own house.

19. And when Samuel was gone, Gilbert called together all those under him, among whom were Robert the Squire, William the Scribe, William the Busybody, surnamed the Deaf, William the Fiddler, John the lover of horses, Edward the Bald, Nathaniel the Inspector, and many others, and said unto them, assemble together all my people, even the publicans and sinners, and draw up a petition to the Sanhedrim, praying that the lands of thy neighbors, even up to the Great Cataract, be annexed to thy master Samuel's, but admit none to thy councils of any other tribe than thy master's, and let me know what thou hast done. Be faithful, and ye shall be rewarded.

20. And the rest of the acts of Gilbert, lo! are they not recorded in the second chapter of the second book of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. Now after Gilbert had spoken these words, and in the 19th year of the reign of Victoria, and on the 7th day of the third month thereof, a few of the people of the tribe of Samuel assembled together to consider the matter whereof he had spoken.

2. And the people called loudly upon Gilbert to preside over their deliberations, which lifted him up amazingly in his own conceit.

3. Now when Gilbert had seated himself upon the chair of state, William the Scribe and Robert the Squire proposed that William the Fiddler should perform the functions of Scribe to this meeting of the people.

4. Then Robert the Squire rose up, and with a loud voice, spake as follows:

5. Harken unto my voice, O ye people, and give ear unto my precepts, ye men of Samuel; for verily I say unto

thee, that the reign of thy master Samuel will be short over the lands on which we now dwell, unless ye follow after me and Gilbert the Steward.

6. For this people amongst whom we have cast our lot are a perverse people, and will not hearken to, nor be led by us.

7. Therefore, O men of Samuel, followers of his Chief Steward, let us band ourselves together as one man, and let us stoutly push against and overthrow this people, and let us seize their lands and vineyards, houses and horses, yea, and their wives and children, and bring the whole country round about under subjection to our master; then shall he stand and not fall, and his reign endure for many years.

8. Now the people hearkened not unto his words, and Gilbert was sorely vexed, and opened his mouth and rebuked them sharply, saying unto them,

9. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, for that I have chosen to raise my master's glory and exalt mine own name, and have labored day and night for the good of this people; and forasmuch as ye have turned a deaf ear to that which my servant Robert hath said unto thee, and have hearkened unto other stewards,

10. Know ye, that if ye lift up your voices against me, or disobey me, that I will pluck ye up by the roots out of the lands which I have given thee, and from the offices ye hold under me; and I will cast ye out of my sight, and make ye a bye-word and a reproach among all men.

11. But if ye will walk before me as Robert the Squire walks, and do according to all he says, and shalt observe my statutes and keep my laws, then will I shower down gold upon thee in abundance, and ye shall live on the fat of the land, and ye shall be envied of all men.

12. Then the people were sore perplexed and afraid, and they all with one accord followed Robert the Squire, and did all that was pleasant in his sight.

13. Now when the people had come to order, William the Scribe and Edward the Bald proposed, according to the commands of Gilbert, that a petition should be drawn up, for presentation to the Sanhedrim, praying that the lands adjacent to and adjoining those of Samuel's, be annexed thereunto, even up to the great Caravansera. And it was done.

14. Then Robert the Squire proposed that the name of Samuel's lands be changed from Elgin to that of the great Caravansera, which was a wicked innovation of Robert's, but pleasant to the ears of Gilbert.

15. Now it happened that the place was called Elgin after

this wise: In the 9th year of the reign of Victoria, the people of Canada became dissatisfied with the Governor who ruled over them, and prayed the Queen to send them another.

16. And the Queen hearkened unto the people, and sent them one James, of the house of Bruce.

17. In former times, the forefathers of this James were the chiefs of a powerful tribe, and were a brave and noble race, much renowned for valor, for they turned not their backs in the day of battle.

18. Now James was also named Elgin and Kincardine. But James inherited not the bravery of his ancestors, for after he came to rule over the people of Canada, behold, he vexed them sorely, and they turned upon him, and he fled. Thus James became a by-word among warriors.

19. But James had an oily and smooth tongue, and his words were like honey, and those of the people who were not valorous, loved James, and he continued to rule over the people for many years.

20. Now when James was governor over Canada, Francis was his Chief Steward.

21. This Francis was a shrewd and a hard man. And James said unto Francis, Forasmuch as thy wisdom hath shewn thee how to deal with this people, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art.

22. Thou shalt be over my house, and according to thy word shall all my people be ruled; only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

23. Now it came to pass that about this time, Samuel was a stranger in the land, and when he heard what James had said unto Francis, behold he joined affinity to Francis.

24. And Francis loved Samuel, and Francis had the keys of the entire wealth of the people, and Samuel prevailed upon Francis to open to him the treasury; and thus Samuel waxed rich and great in the eyes of all men.

25. Now Francis, fearing lest James should be offended at what he had done for Samuel, and at his love for him, (for Samuel was an alien, and did not belong to the people over whom James and Francis ruled,) prevailed upon Samuel to call his lands near the Great Cataract, Elgin, after one of the surnames of James.

26. And James was pleased thereat, and came from the chief town, and walked over the lands. And Samuel waxed greater and richer every day.

27. Now Francis, to shew his great love for Samuel, gave unto Gilbert, Chief Steward to Samuel, numerous offices of trust and gain; and James loved all these men.

28. Therefore the people marvelled greatly when Robert the Squire, in the presence of Gilbert, spake concerning the changing of the name thereof.

29. Now Samuel and Gilbert and Robert were ungrateful men, and had forgotten the many things which James and Francis had done for them, and how they would have been as nothing without them, for they thought in this wise:

30. Has not James gone from the land, even to the place of his nativity, never to rule over us again; and has not Francis been called by the Queen to rule over a small island in a distant sea, never to return.

31. Therefore what need have we to continue this name, which is a by-word in the mouth of warriors and true men, over these lands; and should James or Francis be offended at the change, what need we care, for are they not removed far from us, for good for evil.

32. And is not the great Caravansera in this neighborhood, and will not the keeper thereof be mightily pleased when these lands are called after it, and peradventure every time we visit thereat, the keeper will treat us to choice wines and strong drink for having done this thing.

33. And the further acts and words of Samuel, Gilbert and Robert, are recorded by Simon the Elder, in the third chapter, of the second book of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

CHAPTER THIRD.

1. Now it came to pass that a few days after the meeting of the people of Elgin, Gilbert the Steward bethought himself in this wise:

2. Forasmuch as many of the people who are neighbors unto the land of my master Samuel, are opposed to our proceedings, therefore will I send a trusty servant out among them, to spy out their feelings, even Robert the Squire will I send, for he will do my bidding.

3. Then he sent for Robert to come into his presence, and said unto him, O Robert go thou forth into the neighborhood, even unto the village of Drummondville, and seek to learn the minds of the people.

4. Now there was in Drummondville a Typographical Seminary, where many gathered together to hear the news from all parts of the world, and to gather wisdom from the teachers thereof.

5. Now the village of Drummondville received its name in this wise:

6. In former years, when a king reigned over the Anglo Saxons, the people were at war with a foreign people called Yankees, who lived on the borders of the Principality of Canada.

7. Now Winfield, surnamed the Long, a chieftain of the Yankees, led a band of his warriors across the river, to take possession of Canada; and they marched through the land until they came to a narrow passage on the brow of a hill, called Lundy's Lane.

8. And it came to pass that a chieftain of the Anglo Saxons was leading his band of fighting men to stop the progress of Winfield through the land.

9. And the name of the chief of the Anglo Saxons was Drummond.

10. And it so fell out that the two bands of warriors came upon one another in this narrow passage, and there fought a terrible battle, which lasted even until darkness covered all the land.

11. And Drummond and his warriors drove Winfield and his fighting men from the hill, and the Yankees retired to their own country, leaving many dead and wounded on the field of battle.

12. Thenceforth the hill was called Drummond Hill and the place round about was called Drummondville.

13. And on the day on which Gilbert spake unto Robert the above words, a few were gathered together in the Sanctum, or Outer Holy of the Seminary, over which William the Large, who was Chief Ruler of the village, held sway; and Robert appeared suddenly amongst them.

14. Now Robert was a plausible and smooth spoken man, and he spake them fair, saying, My brethren of Elgin have not done those things which were right in the eyes of the people of this township, and I can not uphold them in their iniquitous proceedings, not even Gilbert my master, nor Samuel, Gilbert's master.

15. Behold, therefore, let us understand one another; let us consult together and agree how much of the land of our neighbors shall be made over to my master Samuel.

16. But when he found that those present paid no heed to his words, he departed from thence, even unto the bazaar of William the Trader, into whose eyes he also hoped to throw dust.

17. Now William the Trader was a just and a severe man, and one who always spake what he thought, without respect

of persons, and Robert was mistaken when he thought to blind him, for William rebuked him sorely, so that he left his presence, even as a cur leaves when kicked by his master, with his tail between his legs.

18. And the people of the village were exceeding worth when they learned the duplicity of Robert, and assembled in the public places, and at the corners of the streets, and in the highways, and talked of it among themselves.

19. And the next morning he departed straightway for the chief city, to lay his petition before the Sanhedrim, notwithstanding he had given out that he would await the voice of the people. But he walked according as his master Gilbert commanded.

20. Now when Robert arrived at the chief city, he sought out John the Snuffy, and besought him to present the petition to the Sanhedrim, for John was a member thereof.

21. Now when John the Snuffy came into possession of the petition, he took a huge pinch of snuff, and straightway laid the writing before the Sanhedrim, for the reason that Samuel, Gilbert and Robert had been the chief instruments in elevating him to his present position.

22. For when the people were asked whom they would send to present them in the Great Sanhedrim, behold, did not Samuel hire all the charioteers to bring the lame, the halt, and the blind to the place where their voices were to be heard in the choice of one to represent them? And did he not give largely from his abundance to ensure the election of John the Snuffy?

23. Then Robert departed in peace for his temporary home in the future city of refuge, well knowing that John would do his uttermost to advance the views of Samuel, and of Gilbert his Steward.

BOOK THIRD.—CHAPTER ONE.

1. In the 17th year of the reign of Victoria, Queen of the Anglo Saxons, Rob the son of Hob, was invested with power to punish evil doers in the neighborhood of the Great Cataract.

2. And Rob pitched his tent among the Elginites, and began administering justice.

3. For a time he did that which was right in the eyes of all men, and people came from the east, and the west, the

north, and the south, to hearken to his judgments, and to receive council from his lips; and his business waxed great.

4. Now it came to pass that on the fourth day of the sixth month of the 17th year of the reign of Victoria, Rob dreamed a dream.

5. And behold it appeared unto him that the poor of the earth bowed down their heads before him, and men seeking justice came to his judgment seat, but that the rich passed him by and mocked him.

6. And Rob's spirit was sore grieved, and he asked himself, how is this? the poor and needy do me homage, but the rich notice me not.

7. And whilst Rob was marvelling thereat, behold there appeared unto him in his dream a huge and fearful figure, like unto a man.

8. On its head were a pair of great horns, and on its forehead the mark of Cain; its feet were each different from the other, the one being as the foot of a man, the other cloven like unto the hoof of an ox. He had also a great tail, like unto a serpent. This spirit, or man, was clothed as with a dark cloud.

9. And presently this fearful being opened wide its great mouth, from which issued forth fire and brimstone, and said: I am he before whom kings and potentates have bent the knee; half the people of the earth, with all the lovers of Mammon, owe fealty to me. I have watched thy going out and thy coming in, and I have searched the innermost recesses of thy heart, and I know the worm which in secret is preying on thy vitals.

10. Now, therefore, fall down and worship me, and I will teach thee how to gain the favor of the rich, and how to fill thy coffers with wealth.

11. And Rob was in great fear, and sweat great drops of sweat, and fell down and worshipped.

12. Then this man said unto Rob, O, thou son of Hob, do not all men come to thee to settle their differences and disputes, and is not thy name proverbial among men for justice and truth? hast thou not held this thy present office for many years at the country of the Little Hills? and art thou not poor?

13. Therefore, O son of Hob, what signifies this to thee? Is not riches better than a fair name, and gold preferable to empty honor? for with all thy wisdom and justice, does not the rich man pass thee by every day, without doing thee homage? and is not this thing killing thee in secret?

14. Know, then, O son of Hob, that understanding all these things, and loving thee, I have caused this deep sleep

to come over thee, and this dream to appear unto thee, that thou mayest gain riches, and submit to the scorn of the no longer.

15. Be advised, therefore, and when thou sittest in judgment, commit none to prison, nor punish evil doers with severity, else they appear not before thee again, and thy business decrease; nor decide against the rich man, else he hate thee, and seek thy overthrow.

16. And when thou hast heard the causes which are brought before thee, decide not according to the laws of the land in which thou livest, but measure every man's crime with his wealth, and as is his wealth, so let thy judgement be. If he have little, take from him little—if much, take liberally of his wealth—sparing always the rich man, for he will pay thee in private.

17. And when thou hast decided, let them not leave thy presence until the uttermost farthing is paid unto thy treasurer, and cause him to place the moneys thou receivest in thy strong box, among thy silver and gold, precious stones and fine linen, then shalt thou grow rich, and have marriage portions for thy sons and thy daughters.

18. But pay no more of the moneys which thou takest from suitors into the Queen's treasury, as the law directs, and as other foolish judges do, and as thou hast heretofore done, but keep them where I have told thee, and for the uses I have mentioned unto thee.

19. And it will come to pass that after a time, these small sums will increase greatly; and thy wealth and prosperity be known to all men; and the rich will love thee, and the poor dread thee, and justice be blind to all that thou doest.

20. And when he had finished speaking, Rob wakened out of his sleep, and was sore perplexed, and sat him down and thought over all that he had dreamed, and said aloud, Verily I have been sorely tempted, but I will stand by my integrity, and do none of these wicked things.

21. But the fearful being that appeared unto him in his dream stood close beside him, though Rob saw him not, and he whispered in Rob's ear: Hast thou not worshipped me?

22. And Rob swooned away.

23. And when he awakened out of his swoon, behold he was a changed man, for he thought and spoke and did different from before, and his face bore an anxious and troubled look.

24. And the people marvelled greatly at this, for they knew not the power that held dominion over him.

25. About the 10th hour of the day, Rob went and sat

down on the judgement seat, and many suitors came before him, and he followed after the advice given him by the being clothed in black, and his judgment was against the poor man, and he took to himself all the moneys paid in on that day, and carried himself not as formerly.

26. And several of the people assembled together and said, Behold this man is as one bereft of his senses, let us keep watch on him that he do no harm.

27. And the rest of the acts of Rob the son of Hob, lo! are they not recorded in the second chapter of the third book of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. Now Rob knew not that the eyes of the people were upon him, and that his actions were close watched.

2. And behold, ere he had sat long on the judgement seat, many suitors came before him.

3. Among others, was a man from a foreign country, who had been severely beaten by one Thomas, the son of Andrew.

4. Now when he that was beaten had related unto Rob, in the presence of the multitude, all concerning the stripes he had received, and had shown his wounds,

5. Rob called one of his servants, and said unto him: Behold this man, how shamefully he has been beaten. Go straightway, and seize upon the man who hath done this thing—even Thomas the son of Andrew—and command him to come before me to answer for what he has done.

6. And if he refuse to come, call to thy aid whomsoever thou listeth, and bind him with strong cords, and carry him here that I may punish him.

7. And the man departed on his errand, and after a short time returned, bringing with him Thomas the son of Andrew, as a prisoner.

8. Now when Thomas was brought before the judgment seat, Rob said unto him, Thomas, thou son of Andrew, behold this man, bleeding from many wounds. He has charged thee with having severely beaten him; wherefore did'st thou do this thing?

9. Thomas made answer and said, O Rob, son of the great Hob, may'st thou live forever. This man vexed me sorely, and I struck him many times.

10. Then Rob said, Forasmuch as thou hast done this thing, and hast acknowledged it in my presence, behold, there

is no escape for thee. Thou shalt at once pay unto me thirty shekels or be sent to prison.

11. Thomas then, in the presence of Charles and William, paid over the money and departed.

12. Then appeared Matthew the Fiddler, who made oath that John, the son of Tom, had waylaid him and threatened his life; and Rob sent after John and had him brought before him.

13. Now John had friends that interceded for him, so that he was released without trial; but the shekel which Matthew paid Rob for the taking of John, was not returned unto him.

14. Now on the 7th month of the same year, two women were brought before Rob, charged with using violent and unrighteous language.

15. And Rob heard the charge against them, and made the one pay eleven shekels, and the other ten shekels.

16. And behold another woman was brought before him charged with quarrelling and wrangling, and Rob collected from her sixteen shekels.

17. About the same time, also Timothy and John and James, with the wife of Timothy, were brought to the judgment seat, charged with quarrelling and fighting; and Rob decided in this wise: against Timothy and John and James, each ten shekels, and the wife of Timothy, six shekels.

18. Shortly after, Martin and Michael stood as prisoners before Rob; and Martin came near going to prison, but he paid sixteen shekels, and he recovered his liberty, and Michael paid also eight shekels, and departed from the judgment hall.

19. About the 9th month of the same year, behold among others at the judgment seat, stood one Clinton, the son of Murtry, who paid twenty shekels to regain his liberty.

20. In the same month also were fined Thomas, the son of Patrick, and Bernard, the son of Flaberty, for selling strong drink without permission of the Council of Five.

21. And Rob charged them after this fashion: Thomas in the sum twenty shekels, and Bernard forty-six shekels.

22. Now the names of all the people whom Rob charged and punished should have been registered in the books of Joseph the Recorder, but the names of Thomas, Timothy, John, James, Martin, Michael, Clinton, Thomas, and Bernard, nor of the women, behold! they are not recorded!!!

23. In this wise did Rob violate the laws of the land.

BOOK FOURTH.—CHAPTER ONE.

1. In the 19th year of the reign of Victoria, William the Sangsue, was appointed overseer of the highways in the neighborhood of the Great Cataract.

2. And William was five and thirty years of age when he began to reign over the mud puddles and ditches.

3. Now William was a comely man, and a man fair to look upon; but some one had praised his beauty and comeliness unto him, and he became vain, and walked with an high step.

4. Now William, besides being a Sangsue, was the keeper of a caravansera where strong drink was sold; thus William thought himself a man of great consequence in the neighborhood.

5. And behold when the time came that the people should be assembled together to choose a man to look after the highways and byeways, and to keep them clean, there were only six to be found at the place of meeting, and William came also among them.

6. And when they enquired who among them would do that thing, behold, William stood up and said, O, my brethren, am I not just the man for the business, for do not I keep horses and chariots, and am I not on the road every day.

7. Now those present were William the Large, of the Typographical Seminary, Edward the Baker, and William the Brewer, who was also a builder of synagogues, George the Butcher, Hiram the Charioteer, and William the Sangsue.

8. Only they six met out of all the multitude of people round about.

9. And after the hour of meeting had passed by, William the Brewer stood up, and with a loud voice called the six to order.

10. And they made William the Large, Presiding Elder, and Edward the Baker Scribe to the meeting.

11. Then William the Brewer and George the Butcher, seeing that William the Sangsue would be greatly distressed if they placed him not in office, and peradventure destroy himself if they noticed not his supplications and entreaties, cast their lots for him, and Hiram did likewise.

12. Thus William the Sangsue became Overseer of Highways.

13. Now on the morrow, when he arose, he felt greatly elated, and went straightway to the house of Thomas the son of Murtagh, and asked for Thomas.

14. And Thomas being from home, lo! William conversed with the wife of Thomas after this fashion: Behold, O woman, a man of great consequence in this neighborhood, one before

whom fences must fall—dirt fly—hills bow down their heads, and swine run in confusion. Know therefore, O woman, that without my permission thy husband has dared to erect a fence, which is an eyesore to me; tell him, when he returns home, that I, even I, have been here, and that unless he remove the fence, or make it like unto the fence of James, his neighbor, I will cause him to be punished.

15. And the woman said—you get out.

16. Then William was sore vexed, and went straightway to James, who keeps an high tower on the hill, and said unto James, Behold! without my permission hast thou not built a road of seasoned wood up the hill to thy tower.

17. Be assured, therefore, that if thou dost not remove the same at once, it will not be well with thee.

18. And James said, Go thy way, and trouble me not.

19. Now this vexed William still more sorely, and he turned and went his way, and called on others. To one he said, throw no more of thy waste leather into the streets; to another, throw no more of thy tin in the highway; to another, keep thy eggshells and cheese parings to thyself, and place them not where I see them, for verily I say unto thee, I have now the power to punish thee, and I will do it.

20. Thus it was that William the Sangsue proclaimed his office to all men.

21. Then reasoned William with himself in this wise: Have I not made all those with the breath of life in their bodies know already that I am in power? Verily, verily, if the dead can be reached—if dust and ashes can understand—them also will I make to know and feel my consequence.

22. For I will cause the side of the hill on which stands the sepulchres to be dug down on a level with the street, and peradventure a heavy rain will come and wash down the fence protecting the Potter's Field from those travelling in the highways.

23. And the soil being of sand, will soon fall into the street, and the bones of those who sleep in death will be strewed under the hoofs of horses and the snouts of swine.

24. And they also shall know that I am Overseer of Highways.

25. And the people were sore troubled, but it served them right, and they deserved it, for they should have attended at the meeting, and cast their votes against him.

26. Now the rest of the acts of William the Overseer, lo! are they not recorded in another chapter of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. Now when William the Sangsue had gone before Richard the Scribe, and sworn to do the duties of his office as Overseer of Roads, and had received from Richard the names of those subject unto him,

2. He went from house to house, and from man to man, and collected all the money he could, but warned none to work.

3. And immediately he ordered out his own horses and wagons, together with the Etheopian he kept to wait upon him, and he sallied forth in search of holes and bad places in the highways.

4. And for a short time he and the Etheopian were to be seen side by side, earning their daily bread.

5. And they hauled sand from the place where the great battle was fought, and filled up the holes in the clay roads therewith ; and the first carriage which passed over sank into the holes and threw the sand out; therefore, the roads are as uneven as heretofore.

6. Then picked they the small stones and bits of bones from off the highways, and amused themselves many days at the public expense.

7. Now William kept a chariot and horses, which in former years he drove to the great caravansera near the mighty cataract, and besought travellers to enter his chariot and permit him, for a consideration, to drive them round about.

8. But as the travellers had not yet arrived at the great caravansera, but were expected daily when William got his office, he was naturally anxious to expend all the money he had received as soon as possible. by paying himself for the use of his servant, horses and wagons, nay even for his own services, and to that end sometimes worked two days in one.

9. And the chief part of the work was done on the road leading from his own house to the great caravansera, over which he expected to travel daily, and the other roads were unnoticed.

10. Now the principal number of people who paid money unto William are they who have neither horses or carriages, but journey on foot ; and as it is dangerous to walk where the horses usually travel, side-walks had been provided by former overseers.

11. Several of these side-walks, through age and wear, required repairing ; others required entirely renewing, and one or two making ; and the people spake to William concerning them.

12. So one day he placed a few pieces of board in his

wagon, and for about half an hour traversed the streets, but all he did to them the cutest man in the place has yet failed to discover, and they now are a disgrace to the place, and a monument of William's cupidity.

13. Now it came to pass that the former Overseer of Highways cut ditches and all kinds of capers at the four corners, and laid out much labor and money there, but Joseph the Lean, surnamed You Know, liked it not.

14. For he said unto himself, Behold, the man has cut a ditch nearly opposite my bazaar, so that peradventure any one coming there to trade may fall therein and be injured, and the place may get a bad name, and none will visit it.

15. Therefore will I speak to William, who is friendly unto me, and get the nuisance removed.

16. And he spake unto William concerning the ditch, but William heeded him not, for it was no interest to William, his caravansera, his chariots, his horses, or his Etheopian.

17. And he spake several other times to William, but William paid no attention to him. Then Joseph was enraged, and wrote his grievance down on paper, and asked William in writing to alter the ditch, and went round among the people and asked them to sign it; and many signed it, for it was a hard case.

18. Now one day William entered into Joseph's bazaar to buy something, and Joseph bethought him of the paper, and he went and got it, and presented it to William.

19. And William took it, and read what was written thereon, and tore it up, and threw the pieces at Joseph's head.

20. Thus it was that William pleased not the people whose servant he was, for he did only such work as was beneficial to him, or near his house, whilst the roads in those parts of the town, south and west of the Typographical Seminary remained untouched, though the people living thereon paid largely.

21. Thus all the fair promises which William made when he was first elected to office, turned out to be wind only, for they have vanished into thin air.

22. And behold, unless he repair some of the side-walks soon, they will also vanish, and William's reign over the highways be remembered forever.

23. And the thistles and weeds grow higher and stronger each day under his administration, and they have blossomed and formed seed under his rule, and in another moon, when the high winds come, the gardens and the pleasant places will be covered with the seeds of dock and thistle and mul-len, which William has suffered to grow.

24. Oh ! that he had had a garden of his own, then would this thing not be.

25. Oh ! that he had lived off the main street, then would the labor of the Etheopian and William have been more generally diffused over all the highways in this locality.

BOOK FIVE.—CHAPTER FIRST.

1. In the 5th month of the year of the reign of Victoria, and on the 12th day of the month, behold the Governor of the Province of Canada issued his decree that all that country lying between the waters of the Great Lakes, to the north and to the south, and bounded by the mighty River of the Cataract on the east, and the country of the Little Hills to the west, be divided into two parts.

2. But the people marvelled not thereat, for they had expected it every fine morning for several moons.

3. Now for years there had been a division among the people inhabiting the country between the Lakes, on this subject.

4. Those who wished the country divided, placed themselves under the leadership of John the Snuffy ; and those who were not for a division of the territory, chose as a leader Thomas, surnamed Casse Noisette.

5. Now this Thomas was an exceedingly rich man, and owned great tracts of land, and he violently opposed John the Snuffy.

6. And John and Thomas and their friends had many disputes, but Thomas had a tongue that cut like a two edged sword, and he vanquished John every time.

7. But after a time Thomas refused to attack John, so the people who followed after Thomas were obliged to seek another leader ; then it was that John gained great advantages, for behold, some who followed after Thomas, were not satisfied with the successor of Thomas, and went and chose other leaders, and the followers of Thomas grew weaker every day.

8. At the last, John and his followers gained a great victory over their opponents, and they set up John as ruler over the people of one-half the territory.

9. Then John called together certain of the wise men living in that country and said unto them, Behold, have I not run Thomas out of his boots, and scattered his followers like

young partridges, and am I not the great John of the diggins?

10. All those therefore, who wish for offices of trust and emolument, fall in and march under my standard, but question not what I say or do, and remember that what I say is law, and when I say yea—let it be yea, and nay—nay.

11. And many joined affinity to him, among the most notable were: Dexter the Souffleur, Robert the Squirc, Archibald, surnamed Fier-a-bras, Leonard the Exhorter, and Jacob the Surveyor.

12. Now these men adhered closely to John, and John did with them as he pleased, for when he said do this, or that, they did it, or say this or that, they said it.

13. And they counselled together and determined to build a great house wherein to hold counsel, also a huge judgment hall and a prison.

14. Then John issued his mandate and called together the chiefs of the tribes in the country over which he ruled, and said unto them, Behold it is necessary to build an house for a judgment hall, and a place wherein to confine malefactors, for the one that we now use is a great distance off, therefore I have called you together to choose a place whereon to build it.

15. Then rose William the Burly, and William the Lank, George the Petulant, and James the Canny, and with one voice declared that the people over whom they were chieftains, desired not that building, for it would be a great burthen to the inhabitants of the country round about, and moreover was not required.

16. But John listened not unto them, and now that Thomas was gone, feared not. And when he declared that the building should stand at the place of the meeting of the waters, where Samuel the Railroad King had built a great heap of stones, his followers said, even so let it be.

17. And they outnumbered the followers of Thomas, who, now that Thomas was not with them, were weak, and they commenced the building forthwith.

18. Now the people of the country liked not the place chosen for the erection of the building, for they feared that a certain demon called ague, that held sway over that part of the country, would seize upon them when they went there and enslave them.

19. But John cared not for that demon, for he held a charm which prevented that demon having power over him.

20. Now John sold these charms to those enslaved by that demon, and he amassed riches thereby; therefore, the

more people he could assemble together in the territory of that demon, the more valuable would the power he held over that demon be unto him.

21. And when he had gained his end, and the building was fairly commenced, behold he laughed outright from very joy, and took a huge pinch of snuff.

22. And the rest of the acts of John, and the history of the building of the judgment hall, lo! are they not recorded in the 2d Chapter of the Fifth Book of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. Now it came to pass, that before the building was commenced at the place of the meeting of the waters, Duncan, surnamed Meerschum, had great hopes of having it near his wigwam.

2. This Duncan was a portly man, and had represented the people of the country round about in the Great Sanhedrim, and he allied himself to John the Snuffy, and for a time John and he ate out of the same dish.

3. And Duncan lived in the country of the Colemanites, the Timsites, the Brownites, the Murrayites, the Kingites, and the McCoppinites, and he ruled over them all.

4. And it came to pass, that on the 15th day of the 1st month, in the 14th year of the reign of Victoria the Queen, John called together the wise men of the country, at a certain noted place, at a certain corners, and when they had assembled, said unto them,

5. Behold, it is my wish, as well as the wish of Duncan, that the Judgment Hall and Prison be built, and we have chosen a place near unto the land of the Colemanites.

6. Now, therefore, I pray thee let us depart from this place, and go and visit the spot chosen by Duncan and myself.

7. And when they arrived at the place, behold, several of Duncan's friends had assembled there, and Duncan was also among them.

8. After the usual salaaming and bowing to the earth, each to the other, had been performed to the satisfaction of those present, John and Duncan advanced in front of the people, and set up a great stone to mark the spot. And all the wise men, and those who were overseers, and him who

was to erect the building, went to work with pick and shovel.

9. Now it chanced that a man from another country was passing by at the time, and he saw John and Duncan and their friends at work around the big stone, and he stopped his horses, for he was riding in a sleigh, and enquired concerning the assemblage in these words—What's up?

10. And one who was a looker-on made answer to him and said—It is John and Duncan, and their followers setting up the corner-stone of a Judgment Hall and Prison.

11. And he that travelled remarked thereon in this wise—Behold, in my country, buffaloes dig no pit-falls to entrap themselves, nor do wolves set snares for each other; why therefore, seek these men to build an house for themselves? Are they mad?

12. And the man went on his journey, marvelling at the folly of the men he had seen setting up the stone.

13. And one John the Contractor engaged to finish the work, and John the Snuffy ordered a large sum of money to be paid to him.

14. Now John the Contractor did not go on with the work as he agreed, so John the Snuffy lost the money he had caused to be paid to John the Contractor.

15. Now the money belonged to the people, therefore, John the Snuffy cared not; and the people being fools, called him not to account therefor.

16. Other large sums were also lost to the people under John's rule; still they murmured not, but ass like, travelled on under the burthens he placed upon them.

17. In this wise did John govern the people and administer justice.

18. Now when John the Contractor would not finish the work which he had began, and would not pay back the money he had received; and also when Duncan opened his mind to John the Snuffy freely on the folly of paying John the Contractor before any work was performed by him,

19. John waxed wroth, and swore in his anger that the Judgment Hall and Prison should not stand in the country of the Colemanites, or the McCoppinites, and that he would remove it from near the wigwam of Duncan.

20. And with the aid of those who were servants of his, even from the first, he accomplished that thing, and he caused it to be built in the country of the Sherwoodites, the Hellemites, and the Ballites.

21. On the 5th day of the 6th month, in the 18th year of the reign of Victoria, commenced he this building.

22. Now Kivas the Draughtsman superintended the erec-

tion of this building, and John the Squire and William the Merchant undertook to build it.

23. But William and John knew little about building Judgment Halls and Prisons; so after a time, they found that the price at which they had agreed to do the work was insufficient therefor, and that without assistance they would not be able to complete their work.

24. And they told John the Snuffy thereof, and John said, Fear not; I will call the wise men of the territory over which I rule, together, and I will make them fork over all the dimes thou requirdest.

25. So John issued his mandate, and on the 7th day of the 2d month, in the 19th year of the reign of Victoria, the chiefs of the various tribes, met together at the meeting of the waters.

26. And the further acts of John, and the building of the Judgment Hall and Prison, are recorded in the 3d chapter of the 5th book of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

CHAPTER THIRD.

1. And when the chiefs of the several tribes received John's mandate, they hastened to the place of meeting.

2. And when they had assembled themselves together, and each one had answered to his name, lo! it was found that James, chief of the Chippawas, was absent.

3. Then John, as Chief Sachem, rose up and said, Behold, my brethren, we now sit in our own Council Chamber, and close along side the Great Judgment Hall, it behooves us therefore to be more dignified than formerly.

4. I pray ye, therefore, when ye return to your tribes, to say unto them, John, the Chief Ruler, is a mighty man, and has power over things seen and unseen—for has he not raised a great building, and have we not sat and counselled therein? And although other men nearly died from the dampness thereof, yet under the shelter of his wing, behold us unscathed and sound.

5. Give praise, therefore, unto John, all ye people, and return thanks to him all ye his tribes, for the protection and safe return of your chiefs.

6. For the demon, Ague, can not chill them, nor dampness freeze their bones, whilst the great Medicine Man is with them.

7. Now for years John had ruled with an iron hand, and

the chiefs under him feared and obeyed him—for when one two or raised their voices against him, those who followed after John took part against them, and John prevailed.

8. The people of the territory liked not this thing ; they, therefore chose other chieftains—men more independent—who would not bow down their heads in submission to John, or any other like unto him.

9. Now it came to pass, that when John had assembled the chieftains around him, he commenced to dictate to them as formerly, but they heeded him but little, for when he said yea, behold they said nay ; and when he said nay, they answered yea.

10. And John wondered greatly, and was sore grieved.

11. Now the first time the chieftains opposed John and conquered, was in this wise : The Great Sanhedrim had published it throughout the country that every year the chieftains of each territory should choose a man to examine into the accounts thereof, and to report upon the manner in which the tribute paid by the people had been spent, and that the Chief Sachem should choose a man also.

12. But John hearkened not to this law, for he would always choose both of these officers himself, thereby taking from the chieftains their right, and assuming all power to himself.

13. Now at this meeting of the chieftains should these officers be chosen ; therefore, John got up, and with a loud voice told the chieftains that he had appointed these officers, and commanded them to go to work.

14. But the chieftains cared not, and they named another man instead of him whom John had chosen. Then John spake unto them again, but the chieftains hearkened not to him, for they regarded him as a tyrant trying to enslave them, and they clamored loud and long, and forced John to give way.

15. Now it was well for John that he assented when he did, for had he held out any longer, he would have lost the chief rulership, for the chieftains were independent, and feared him not.

16. Thus it was that William, a merchant in the neighborhood of the Great Cataract, was chosen to examine into the accounts of the territory.

17. Now among the orders for money taken from the treasury which William found, when he examined the accounts, were several most extraordinary specimens of manuscript, signed by John the chief ruler, and reading thus :

18. Pay John the Snuffy 376 shekels, Leonard the Ex-

horter 164 shekels, John the Hearty 244 shekels, Robert the Squire 279 shekels, William the Burly 44 shekels, Archibald surnamed Fier-a-bras 120 shekels, Duncan, surnamed Meersch-
schaum 120 shekels, Henry the Coroner 120 shekels, Robert the Lean 288 shekels, Jonas the Whale 120 shekels, Jacob the Reserved 120 shekels, William the False 120 shekels, William the Goldfitch 120 shekels, Jacob the Surveyor 134 shekels.

19. Now what did these men with the people's money? and why did John cause these large sums to be paid unto them?

20. Hearken, all ye my people, and I, SIMON THE ELDER, will tell ye.

21. Know ye, that John the Snuffy had been to the Sanhedrim, which then sat in a distant part of the country, even in Quebec, an ancient and fortified town, and he had seen great and wondrous things therein; and when he returned, he spake of those things which he had seen unto his friends; and they marvelled thereat, and said, Oh, John, what can we do that we also may see these things?

22. And John said unto them, Go straightway to the people among whom ye live, and tell them that without thy assistance they can not hope to own the frog ponds and the hiding places of the lizards, which they covet.

23. But that if they send thee to the chief town, even to Quebec, that ye will plead their cause for them before the Governor and the Sanhedrim.

24. And they did as John advised, and the people hearkened unto them, and went about collecting money for their journey.

25. And one fine morning, shortly after, these men met together, and started off a sight-seeing.

26. Of their journey, what they did at the chief town, who they saw, or where they tarried, no one ever knew; for the gate-keeper and the governor of that town deny ever having seen these men.

27. So these men were paid twice for doing nothing—once by the people, and once by John the Snuffy's order on the Treasury—which was also from the people.

28. But the people murmured not, for they are fools and carry the burden like asses. Verily, verily, such things will not go unpunished forever.

29. And the rest of the acts of John the Snuffy and his chieftains, are they not recorded in the 10th book of the Chronicles of Simon the Elder.

BOOK SIX.—CHAPTER ONE.

1. Now it came to pass, that on the 12th day of the 5th month of the 19th year of the reign of the Queen, the Governor of the Province of Canada issued his decree, appointing several people to office.

2. Among others appointed was one Hervey, son of a man of note in former days, Robert the Squire, Lorenzo the Poet, and Dexter the Souffleur.

3. Hervey was made Judge of the territory over which John the Snuffy ruled, and Robert the chief Jailer thereof; Lorenzo was made chief Scribe, and Dexter had charge of the writings of those who had departed this life.

4. Now Dexter was also Recorder of other writings, and he made much money thereby; for when a man sold an house or a vineyard to another, he could not safely hold the same unless he took the writings thereof to Dexter to be recorded.

5. Thus Dexter dealt with and was enriched by the living and the dead, and his fame spread throughout all the country round about.

6. And many there were who spoke evil of and reviled him. Behold, says one, a man whose conscience is burthened with evil, for he can not bear the gaze of any one without embarrassment.

7. And another said, He is an alien, and his parentage is unknown. Verily, verily, he would not keep these things hidden whereof honest men are proud to speak, if all was right and clean.

8. In this way did men speak of him, now that he was appointed to office, but when he had no office, men spoke not so of him.

9. And men spake sharply also of Robert the Squire, and said many and strange things of him.

10. But of Lorenzo the Poet, every one spake well, and the people rejoiced greatly when he was made chief Scribe.

11. Of Hervey the Judge men knew not what to say, therefore, all held their peace concerning him, but one or two, for he was a young man, and had not yet passed through a certain scorching and purifying fire called public opinion.

12. Now one of those who spake in public of Hervey the Judge, was William the Traitor, a member of the Great Sanhedrim.

13. For when he heard that the Governor had honored Hervey with his favor, the blood boiled in William's veins, and envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness seized upon him at once.

14. And he opened his mouth and spake sorely against Hervey, and against his father; but it injured neither of them, for the Sanhedrim and the inhabitants of the Province believed him not.

15. For in former days he had had a price set upon his head for rebellion, and men had hunted him as a tiger, but he escaped them, or he had been hanged by the neck.

16. And when he had lived in a foreign country for many days, behold the Queen pardoned him, and he returned.

17. Now some there were who were sore grieved when he returned, for said they, we are not safe with a stirrer-up of strife and sedition in our midst.

18. And others said, 'tis well, for he must now see the folly and wickedness of his former life, and will surely *reform*, and he will turn his talents to good purposes, and repent him of all the evil he has done.

19. But as the bee can not exist without labor, nor the ass without braying, so neither could this man restrain his restless limbs from running to do evil, nor curb his noisy strife-stirring tongue.

20. Therefore he sought throughout the whole Province for the most discontented and rebellious people, and asked them to send him to the Sanhedrim.

21. And he found them near a muddy and almost stagnant river, amid fogs and bogs, mill dams, beaver dams, frogs, lizards and snakes, and every venomous and unsightly thing.

22. And he spake sedition, heresy and schism, to the men of that place, and they hearkened unto him, and sent him to the Sanhedrim.

23. Now those who grieved at his pardon and return were the best judges of the human heart, and they prophesied truly, for has it not fallen out just as they foretold?

24. For is he not just as formerly, a discontented man, and a reviler of all that is good, and does he not slander the rich and the poor, the young man and the aged, or can any thing be found on earth to give him pleasure, or call forth his approbation.

25. Therefore none were surprised when he reviled against Hervey the Judge.

26. And the rest of the acts of Hervey, Robert, Lorenzo, and Dexter, are recorded in another chapter of these veracious Chronicles.

BOOK SEVEN.—CHAPTER FIRST.

1. For some years there had existed a class of persons in the Province of Canada, known as politicians, who claimed to know more about making laws and governing states than any other people, and they went about the country asking the inhabitants thereof to send them to the Sanhedrim.

2. And the people hearkened to them, and chose men from among them, and sent them to the Sanhedrim. It would have been far better had the people sent them to prison, or banished them from the country altogether, and sent other men instead.

3. For before this class of men were known the country prospered greatly, and every one was at peace with his neighbor, and those men who sat in the Sanhedrim were honest, and wasted not the people's money.

4. But since these men gained an ascendancy, behold, the country was filled with lies and poverty, hypocrisy and deceit, for no man trusted his neighbor as formerly, nor can people of one house live harmoniously together, and the public money is squandered.

5. For they set *son against father*, and mothers against their children, brothers war with brothers, and there is neither rest nor peace for any one. This they do that the people, being distracted, pay no heed to their sayings or doings.

6. Now in the Sanhedrim there are high seats and low seats, and it is considered the greater honor to sit on the high seats, and also much more profitable. Behold, when the members meet, there is a great scramble for those seats, and those that gain them are they having the most friends, being of the strongest side.

7. And when any of those men who sit on those high seats loses his friends, and is pulled down by others, and another taketh his place, him who supplanteth the other has to leave the Sanhedrim and go back to the people who sent him, and if they are pleased at what he has done, they send him back again, and he sitteth on the high seat.

8. But if they are displeased with him, and send him not back, but send another, him whom they send in his place taketh not the high seat, unless he have many and strong friends in the Sanhedrim—but he taketh a low seat.

9. In former times, when men were less ambitious after power, or less greedy after wealth, and before they had made a trade of politics, those who gained the upper seats, held them for a long time, and all the members of the Sanhedrim worked together for the public good.

10. But of latter years, every man strove to sit himself

on those seats, that he might have power to rob the country and enrich himself, and when he found he could not get there himself, he assisted any one stronger than he, who would promise to divide the spoils with him.

11. Thus it was that the members of the Sanhedrim were divided into two parties, those on the high and those on the low seats.

12. Now in the 19th year of the reign of Victoria the Queen, the Sanhedrim met at the chief town, even of Toronto, and the members thereof, sat in session for many months, and they did but little for the people, but cost the people much treasure.

13. For those on the low seats had united together to pull down those on the high seats, therefore, those on the high seats could not do anything for the people, having to watch those on the low seats, who threatened them daily.

14. Now the people living near the mouth of the great river whose waters empty into Lake Ontario, and which floweth between the lands of the Queen and the lands of a people called Yankees, had the privilege of sending a man to the Sanhedrim.

15. And they had sent one Joseph, a Lawyer, who also belonged to that class of men of whom we have written, called politicians.

16. Now Joseph lived not among the people whom he represented in the Sanhedrim, but at the chief town, and many there were who thought this a scandalous thing.

17. And it came to pass that while Joseph was in the Sanhedrim, he sat in a low seat; but after some time he caught one of those sitting in an high seat by the legs, and jerked him out, and being a nimble man, jumped in himself before the other could prevent him.

18. Therefore Joseph had to leave the Sanhedrim and travel across the lake to the people who sent him, and ask them to send him back to the Sanhedrim.

19. Now when the people sent Joseph to the Sanhedrim, he had promised them many and great things, how he would fill every man's pocket with gold and his mouth with honey—but he had not fulfilled any of the promises he had made, therefore many turned against him.

20. And others charged him with giving away land and money to people of another and distant part of the country, forgetting those who sent him.

21. And others said, Lo! he represents only two or three of all the multitude, and he will make none rich but them, therefore we will not send him back.

22. And again, others said, He has gained his seat among the high seats unfairly, for the man whom he pulled out was weary and slept, or he could not have done it.

23. These people, therefore, made up their minds not to send Joseph back to the Sanhedrim, but to seek for a man among themselves to send in his place.

24. Now when Joseph heard these things, he felt sore at ease, and went among those that he knew were still friendly to him, and fell on their necks and wept.

25. And the rest of the acts of Joseph, and how he sought to be returned, are recorded by Simon the Elder in another chapter of these Chronicles.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. Now the people of the territory that Joseph represented in the Sanhedrim, when they learned that Joseph had come among them seeking to be sent back, assembled themselves together in small parties in the highways and byways, and counselled together thereon.

2. And it soon appeared that some were for him and some against him.

3. Therefore those against him were obliged to seek for a man to send in his place.

4. And they pitched upon William, a merchant, who lived in the territory, a man well known unto all the people round about.

5. Now this William was a man who really loved his country, and would do nothing willfully to injure it, and moreover could not be made the tool of any of those on the high seats in the Sanhedrim, nor would he do any dirty thing to sit on those seats.

6. And when he was called on by those opposed to Joseph to come forward, behold he hung not back.

7. Therefore on the ninth day of the seventh month, he met Joseph at the outside of the Great Judgment Hall in that territory, and his friends were with him, and the friends of Joseph were with him also.

8. And after some marshaling, they joined battle after the manner of politicians, and not as warriors, for the weapons they used were those only they inherited from their mothers.

9. Then Joseph sent forth one of his friends to do battle for him, and when he was weary, lo! he sent another.

10. And when he was weary, Joseph came forward himself.

11. Now Joseph inherited from his mother a weapon of singular sweetness and smoothness, and he laid about him with it among the followers of William, skillfully and scientifically.

12. But after a time, he also became weary, and drew back from the battle and rested.

13. Then William sent forward one of his warriors, and he fought for a while, and when he withdrew, he sent another, and after a short time he advanced boldly himself.

14. And when his followers saw him come out bareheaded to the battle, they cheered him.

15. Then it was that Joseph felt sore at ease, for William belabored him sorely; for the first blow he struck Joseph was in the ribs with the Grand Trunk; and the next was on the head with the Reserves; then it was Joseph staggered and sat him down.

16. William next struck him in the mouth with the empty Treasury Bag, and the wind which occupied the place of the shekels that had been drawn therefrom and wasted, escaped and nearly suffocated Joseph.

17. And the people thought Joseph was conquered, and so also did William think; for he ceased to belabor him any longer.

18. But being a strong man, and also a man of much mettle, and not at all weary after vanquishing Joseph, he looked around him for some one else to do battle with.

19. And behold, he espied his own son in the ranks of his enemies, and his wrath was kindled within him.

20. And he cried with a loud voice, Oh, Joseph! (for his son's name was the same as his opponent's,) is it for this I have nourished thee in childhood, and expended much treasure upon thee in manhood!

21. Oh, Joseph! Joseph! thou hast been bribed to take sides against me, therefore from henceforth thou shall be to me only as a stranger. Verily, verily thou art a white-washed clerk of the territory.

22. And may the eggs of thy favorite Shangais be addled, and thy corpulency diminished; and when thou sittest for thy picture to an artist, may thy face so harden as to break his "galvalitical machine."

23. Now while William was saying these words, Joseph's face turned purple, and wore a strange and singular expres-

sion, for with his mouth he laughed, while with his eyss he expressed astonishment and shed tears; his ears dropped down on his collar, and his tongue clave to the roof of his mouth; and it is a matter of great doubt what would have happened unto him, had not his legs done him good service by carrying him off.

CHAPTER THIRD.

1. When Joseph had retreated from before his father, and gone to his own house, lo! his ears tingled greatly, and he called his wife and said unto her,

2. Know, O wife, I have been to view the meeting of my father and Joseph the lawyer, and whilst I was standing by, mine ears began to tingle, and from the burning thereof, I was constrained to leave.

3. Draw near, therefore, I pray thee, and examine into mine ears and seek the cause thereof.

4. Now, the woman loved Joseph greatly, and she felt sore grieved when he was in pain, and looked sharp into his ears, and Behold she saw something therein, and she took a pair of tongs and seized it therewith.

5. And she presented it to Joseph, who, when he saw what it was his wife had got in the tongs, marvelled greatly, for it was a young Shanghai chicken.

6. Then he said, I pray thee, O wife, seek in mine other ear, and what thou findest show unto me.

7. And she looked in his other ear, and Behold she spied something, which she seized also with the tongs, and she presented it likewise unto Joseph, and behold it was a flea.

8. And his wife said, how came thee with the flea and the Shanghai in thine ears.

9. And Joseph said, peace, woman be still, for he was ashamed to tell his wife that his father had placed them there to punish him for his disobedience unto him.

10. Now, when Joseph, the clerk of the territory left to go to his own house, his father drew back from the battle, and Joseph the lawyer came forward a second time.

11. And the multitude marvelled greatly, and said to one another, behold the man whom William killed with the empty Treasury Bag, lo! is he not forward again to the battle.

12. Then many who before hated him and took sides

against him, praised him ; and many more were bribed to assist him, and William's friends looked sad.

13. And they attacked not Joseph again that day, but appointed another day for the final battle, even the 17th and 18th days of the same month.

14. On the days appointed behold they met, William at the head of his forces, and Joseph leading his men to battle.

15. And the battle lasted two whole days, and William was conquered, and Joseph the lawyer was sent back to the Sanhedrim, and Joseph the clerk to watch over his Shanghai eggs, and so ends the 7th book of these reliable Chronicles.

BOOK EIGHT.—CHAPTER ONE.

1. Now it came to pass that whilst Isaac, (surnamed the fact of the business,) was the chief ruler of the territory near the mad waters of a certain Lake called Erie, that one William the son of Thom, moved into that territory.

2. And this William was a mighty man in his own estimation, and for a time cut it fat among the people of the territory.

3. Now when William first came into the country over which Isaac was chieftain, the people thereof were divided into two parties, and they struggled manfully against each other for place and shekels.

4. And they were known, the one party from the other, by names assumed by each, and they hated each other, and the names they had assumed were made a reproach and a by-word.

5. Now Simon knows them only as sleepers and dreamers, and these names has he given unto them, for lo ! thus it was with them.

6. And the sleepers have not yet awakened, nor have the dreamers realized any part of their dreams.

7. Now William when he came into the territory, joined himself unto the sleepers, for said he unto himself, among those people I can soon gain an ascendancy, and peradventure e're long get the chieftainship of the territory, for the sleepers then ruled.

8. And he walked with the sleepers many days, and he did all that was pleasant in their sight.

9. After a short time the sleepers met together to choose from among themselves another ruler, for Isaac's time had

expired, and behold, they chose Alexander, the Immoveable, as their chieftain.

10. Then communed William with himself in this wise, Oh! what a fool have I been, to walk with this people, and to tarry in their synagogues; have they not chosen as chieftain Alexander my neighbor against his will, rather than me, who am seeking the office.

11. Behold I will leave this people and join the dreamers, for with them I can gain an ascendancy, and to that end will I go forthwith, and seek a quarrel with the chief priest of the synagogue, and with the under chieftains of the sleepers.

12. And he did so, and joined himself to the dreamers, and he has continued with them even to this day.

13. But they mistrusted him, as well they might, for did he not turn against and abandon his first love—the sleepers—and he has remained without office.

14. Now Richard the Cunning, governed the dreamers of that territory round about, and he kept a watchful eye on William, and William grew jealous of Richard, but Richard laughed in his sleeve.

15. During all this time William owned a mill where corn was ground, and it was worked by water; and he bought corn of tillers of the soil, and ground it, and sent it to foreign parts.

16. But at times his mill wheel could not revolve, owing to the backing up of the water below his mill, and the upper stone whereby the corn was ground, could not turn upon the nether stone thereof.

17. Then counselled William with himself, behold, if I owned the land whereon stands the house and shop of Timothy the blacksmith, and also the house and bazaar of William the merchant, I could make my mill go all the year round.

18. But the cost thereof would be great, and I have not silver enough to purchase their properties, therefore, I must seek some easier way to gain that end.

19. Then he sought out the records and searched among the parchments concerning those lots of land, and he found that Victoria the Queen owned them.

20. And he said unto himself, verily, now can I gain my end, for the Queen, nor her stewards, know not these people; peradventure, therefore, when I ask for the land, it will be given unto me.

21. And the rest of the acts of William, lo! are they not recorded in the 2nd Chapter of the 8th Book of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. Now the Queen had fortified places throughout her Provinces, wherein she kept men trained to war, and at each of these places lived one of her stewards, who looked after her interests and the interests of her people.

2. And William knew this, and he set out forthwith and travelled unto a fortified place called Mississauga, and waited on the steward at that place.

3. And he besought the steward to give him the lands that the Queen had suffered William the Merchant, and Timothy the Blacksmith to erect houses and bazaars upon.

4. Now this steward was a just man, for after he had hearkened unto William, he asked him, And what is to become of those who in good faith have settled thereon.

5. Then William, who has a very silvery and smooth tongue, answered and said, Oh, my lord, these men are not the salt of the earth that thou should'st recognize them; permit thy servant to turn them off.

6. Then said the Queen's steward unto him, And why, oh thou son of Thom, should I do that thing?

7. And William answered and said, Because the men who now have the land are plebians and of no consequence to either thee or me, and because I claim to be of patrician blood, which should be nurtured and kept at the public expense.

8. Now the Queen's steward pondered over these words, and after a time said unto William, Verily, I will consider this matter, and give thee an answer in a few days; thou hast found favor in my sight, and thy words have fallen deeply into mine heart.

9. Then William bowed himself to the earth before the steward, and departed to his own house.

10. And he was greatly elated at his success, for when he got home he domineered over his servants so that they left him, for now that he had got the ear of the Queen's steward he was an head taller in insolence and arbitrariness than before.

11. In a few days, the Queen's steward wrote to William and Timothy, telling them to move off the Queen's land, for it was to be given to William the son of Thom.

12. Then William the Merchant stirred himself, and he went to the chief men round about, and they advised with him; and he went also to the Queen's steward, and told him all about William the son of Thom.

13. And when the Queen's steward heard how his affairs

stood and who owned the property he called his, and furthermore that he was an alien.

14. He was filled with wrath, and sent for William and said unto him, What manner of man art thou, to deceive me as thou hast done.

15. Thus and so is said against thee, clear thyself of these charges and thou shalt have the land, but if thou failest, quit my sight forever.

16. Now it was a difficult task which was set before him, but being gifted with many words, he almost made the Queen's steward believe him, and disbelieve William the Merchant.

17. Then the Queen's steward demanded proof of William the Merchant that William the son of Thom was an alien.

18. And William the Merchant sent into the country of the Yankees, and to the man who registered the names of all those who, born in the Queen's dominions, forswore their birthright and joined themselves to the Queen's enemies for a mess of pottage.

19. And he asked this man, Does William the son of Thom belong to John Bull or Uncle Sam?

20. And the man answered Uncle Sam. And he wrote on a paper, and sealed it with the seal of his office, and gave it to William the Merchant.

21. Then William the Merchant took it to the Queen's steward, and from that day to the present, William the son of Thom could get no way near the Queen's steward to speak unto him.

22. And William and Timothy held the lands and the mill lacks a tail-race even to this day.

23. And the rest of the acts of William the son of Thom and how he conducted himself, when he got into office, lo! are they not recorded in another chapter of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

BOOK NINE.—CHAPTER ONE.

1. For years it had been law in the Province of Canada, that each and every male inhabitant thereof, over the age of 21 years, should at a certain day, to be named by persons appointed for that purpose, turn out and work upon the highways and by-ways, each man laboring a longer or a shorter

period of time, according to his wealth and the extent of his property, but no man for a less time than two days.

2. But as it would have been inconvenient, nay, ridiculous, for certain persons to handle pick and shovel, even for a few days, and much below the dignity of others, the same law very properly enacted that a certain sum of money could be paid in lieu thereof, by any one choosing so to do, being about one shekel for each day's labor, the overseers of highways taking this money and hiring other men therewith to do the labor.

3. Now in olden times the overseers of highways were chosen in the following manner:—On a certain day in the first month, all the people of each township or tribe, gathered themselves together at one place, and elected a person to preside over the meeting, who, taking the books of the records of the tribe in his hands, opened the same, and cried out with a loud voice, who among you shall be overseer of such or such an road.

4. And one would cry Tom, another Jim, and perchance a third Bill, then he who presided would say, divide, and they would separate, and whoever of these named had the greater multitude on his side was declared overseer on that road.

5. Now, on that day and in that manner, did the people decide upon all their business and elect to office whomsoever they pleased, and the business of their tribe was all done in one day.

6. Thus it was when the sleepers governed the country and held the chief seats in the Sanhedrim.

7. But after a time the dreamers had power, and changed many of the laws of the sleepers, and among those changed was the law about which I have been writing.

8. For the chief of the dreamers made a law and obliged his followers in the Sanhedrim to sanction it, and the Governor to proclaim it, that on the second Monday of each year, thereafter, the people should assemble together and choose from among themselves five rulers who should govern each tribe for one year.

9. And power was given unto these five to make laws and do all that was necessary to be done—and a little more.

10. Therefore, the power which the sleepers placed in the hands of all the people of the different tribes, the dreamers put in the hands of but five of the men of each tribe.

11. And the business which the people transacted in one day, now requires many days therefor.

12. And the meeting of the whole people cost no man anything against his will, and gave satisfaction to all.

13. But the meetings of the five cost much treasure, and give satisfaction to but few.

14. Thus it is that the sleepers are dissatisfied with such laws, and the dreamers themselves are not pleased with their own works.

15. Now there was a tribe that inhabited the country bordering on the Lake of Erie, and the River Niagara, known far and wide among men as the Bertieites.

16. And they are governed by five rulers as the other tribes are, and the names of these five rulers are Arthur, Thomas, Burch, John, and Charles, and Arthur was chief ruler.

17. Now it came to pass that on the tenth day of the fifth month of the nineteenth year of Victoria, that Arthur called together the rulers of the territory to counsel with them.

18. And when they had met, he said unto them, Hearken, oh ye, the wisdom of the earth, and the light of this people, unto my words, and give ear unto my counsels, that it may be well with you and this people over whom ye rule.

19. Behold in the 7th chapter of the laws of this tribe, it is written that for every day a man is obliged to work on the high-ways, it shall be proper for him if he sees fit, to pay one shekel.

20. Now I, even I, Arthur, chief ruler of the Bertieites, declare unto ye all, that that sum is too little, therefore, I have caused that law to be altered, and it shall be read unto ye forthwith, and after it has been read unto ye, ye shall proclaim it law.

21. And the other rulers having no minds of their own, and knowing still less than Arthur of the laws of the Sanhedrim, bowed themselves to the earth before Arthur, saying, Oh chief, live forever, let it be even as thou hast said.

22. And the sum was changed from one shekel to one shekel and a half, for each day's work.

23. Now this could they not do, for a law made by the Sanhedrim had fixed the sum at one shekel, therefore, the change made by Arthur and the other rulers was illegal.

24. And it caused much annoyance, and brought many into trouble and before the magistrates, all of which will be found faithfully recorded in the second chapter of the ninth book of the Chronicles of the Cataract.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. Now it came to pass that one Thomas the brother of Samuel the Fleshy, was appointed one of the overseers of highways in the territory of the Bertieites.

2. And after he had received his instructions from the Council of Five, he proceeded to the wigwams on either side of the roads over which he had supreme authority, and warned the owners and occupants thereof, to take up the shovel and hoe, and follow him.

3. And it happened that on that day, the Chief Priest of the Synagogue, and James the Vigilant, were holding sweet counsel together.

4. Now this James was also a Conservator of the Peace, and Scribe to the chief dispenser of Justice and Law for that territory.

5. And it came to pass, that, whilst the Chief Priest and James were conversing, Thomas the overseer, approached them, and having come into their presence, and salaamed, delivered himself in this wise :

6. I am Thomas, the overseer of highways, know therefore, O! reverend father, and most worthy James, that thy names stand conspicuously on the list sent me by the Council of Five, our most illustrious rulers.

7. I, therefore, command, entreat, and most seriously enjoin upon ye both to go forthwith and get each of ye your spade and pickaxe, and if ye are destitute of such implements of industry, borrow of those that have them, in order that ye may be worthy to join the army I am collecting, to mend the ways of this wicked people.

8. Then answered the Chief Priest, saying, 'tis well, mend thou the ways of this people, O! Thomas, and James and I will assist thee, but not with pick and shovel will we make our attack; James will reach them with a grey goose shaft, and I with my tongue.

9. But that thine army may not lack numbers, James and myself will pay thee as heretofore for each day that thou sayest thou wilt require us with thee, and ye can hire others in our stead.

10. And Thomas said mayest thou live for ever, the sum required of thee is one shekel and a half for each day.

11. Then answered the Chief Priest, saying, my friend! hast thou not erred; I will pay thee as heretofore, one shekel for each day, and here is thy money.

12. And James said, even as thou hast said, so say I.

13. But Thomas was bound hand and foot by the Law,

of the Council of Five, and could take nothing less than one shekel and a half for each days' work.

14. And the Chief Priest and James, knowing the charge to be illegal, and contrary to the Laws of the Sanhedrim, refused to pay more than what had been offered.

15. Then went Thomas on his way, pondering over what had occurred, and studying what he should do, to make the Chief Priest and James join his standard and acknowledge his authority to take from them what he listed.

16. Now among the laws of the Berticites is one which says, whosoever shall refuse or neglect to obey the lawful behests of the overseer, or refuse to assist in mending the ways of the people, shall be taken by the overseer before the Judge and punished.

17. Therefore Thomas sought at once for justice, and he went to the house of Nelson, the Restless, and stated all that the Chief Priest and James had said and done, and what they refused to do likewise.

18. And Nelson said, I have heard thy tale, O Thomas, and shall pay due regard to thy entreaties; go thy way, and come no more to me about this matter until the 8th day of the 7th month, on that day I will send after the Chief Priest and James, and have them as prisoners before me, then be sure thou art here.

19. Then went Thomas to his own house, or somewhere else.

20. Now the power which Nelson possessed of hearing and deciding cases of this and a like nature, had but lately been given unto him, this being the first complaint ever made to him; therefore, it is not in the nature of things to imagine that he did not feel himself *some pumpkins* when he had such men as the Chief Priest of the synagogue and James to try.

21. So he said unto himself, lo! I will send an officer after these men, and I will cause them to be brought before me on the 8th day of the 7th month, and lest either should escape me, I will send for William the son Thom, who also has been newly appointed to office, to assist me.

22. And peradventure when he cometh, he will take the Chief Priest in hand, whilst I deal with James, for I do not consider myself or any other man able to deal with law and gospel at one and the same time.

23. Now Nelson did as he had determined, and on the 8th day of the 7th month, the officer brought the chief priest and James before him.

24. And William sat with Nelson on the judgment seat,

and the people murmured when they saw them there, for 'tis well known they are not the men for Galway, and were then as much out of place, as the Queen would be grinding jack-knives or turning the crank of a barrel organ.

25. Then after they had arranged their law books, brushed up their whiskers, and fixed themselves in their new seats to their entire satisfaction, Nelson called the Chief Priest before him and said unto him—

26. And the rest of the acts of Nelson, lo! are they not recorded in the 3rd chapter of the 9th book of these invaluable Chronicles.

CHAPTER THIRD.

1. What hast thou to say why I should not punish thee, O Chief Priest of the Synagogue, for refusing to obey Thomas the Overseer of Roads?

2. And the Chief Priest answered and said, I am not learned in the law, most worthy Nelson, permit me, therefore, to call George the Ready to plead my cause before thee.

3. Then turned Nelson to William his confrere, and said unto him, What sayest thou! And William answered, So let it be.

4. Then stepped George forth from among the multitude, and said, The law which the Council of Five has made is illegal, inasmuch as it exacts one shekel and a half instead of one shekel for each day's work. The Sanhedrim have fixed the sum, and that sum the Chief Priest hath offered unto Thomas; having complied with the greater law, the lesser one can not touch him; therefore, most honorable and learned masters, ye must acquit the Chief Priest and go without your costs.

5. And Nelson answered and said, Who made you so wise, most sapient George? peradventure I see not the matter through thy spectacles, nor will I be guided by thy judgment, nor hearken to thy words, for thou art strongly tainted with the doctrines of the Sleepers, while I am a judge appointed by the Dreamers.

6. Therefore, I can in no wise give judgment in favor of the Chief Priest.

7. Then William opened his mouth and spake, and he rebuked Nelson, and spake wisely and discreetly, so that

those round about praised him much, and he told Nelson to dismiss the case.

8. But Nelson being a wilful man, and willing to show to those who had placed him in power that he could catch a Tory, hung on to the case like death to a defunct Ethiopian.

9. And Nelson and William having disagreed on everything else concerning this matter, agreed to send for one Isaac, an old judge, to decide between them.

10. And James the Vigilant was also a prisoner before Nelson and William that day, and he stood in their presence, but he was not called to trial, and he left their presence unmolested.

11. Now at night, when Nelson had retired to his couch, and whilst he was travelling fast towards the land of Nod—half sleeping and half waking—behold, he thought in this wise :

12. Isaac for whom we have sent, belongs also to the Sleepers, and peradventure when he cometh, he will take part with them, and he and William will decide with them and against me, therefore, I will send for Arthur the chief of the tribe, who is a staunch Dreamer, and thus I will match them.

13. And in the morning when he arose he sent for Arthur.

14. After several days Nelson caused the Chief Priest to be brought again before his judgment seat, and William, Isaac and Arthur sat thereon with Nelson.

15. Now James the Vigilant was not sent for by Nelson this time, but was free as other men, and he appeared in the judgment hall as other men ; and when he saw Arthur sitting on the judgment seat, he marvelled greatly, and said unto himself, have not I a right to sit there also.

16. And he went straightway and sat among the other judges. Then was Nelson's ire kindled, for he saw that he was outwitted, and he got up and left the room.

17. But after a few breaths of fresh air, his passion cooled, and he returned and took his seat.

18. Then George the Ready appeared to answer for the Chief Priest, and after he had expended all his eloquence, the judges consulted together, and it was found that Isaac and William went for dismissing the Chief Priest, Scot free, and Arthur and Nelson for punishing him.

19. Then James spake up and said, I join my voice unto the voices of Isaac and William, therefore, the case is dismissed.

20. And the Chief Priest stood once more a free man, in a free country—petty tyrants having lost their power over him.

21. Then turned he to Nelson and said, It was not for the sake of the filthy lucre that I contested this matter with thee, but from a desire to do that only which is lawful and right, and to guide thee in the same path.

22. Now, therefore, to prove unto thee the sincerity of my words, here is the full sum claimed by Thomas and thee, even the shekel and a half a day. I have established what is right, even the shekel, but that thou mayest not be able to say, Behold the man who teacheth others to despise riches, hoarding up himself, and filling the judgment hall with his cries over perishable riches, I give thee all thou asked in the first place.

23. Take it ; but remember that thou art not where thou sittest as the tool of any party, but as a man under an heavy oath to do that which is lawful and right—to judge honestly and fearlessly between thy neighbors—to wrest not the law to thine own private feelings, or punish where no guilt is—but to protect the innocent and punish only the guilty.

24. After saying these words, the Chief Priest left the judgment hall.

25. Now Simon would wish to make public many things that occurred during the trial ; how Nelson and Arthur accused William the son of Thom of backsliding ; how nobly William defended himself, how honorably he stood by his integrity ; how the Chief Ruler brought his clerk with him, and what a fool he made of himself ; and how a political quarrel grew out of a road tax, and many other things ; but time will not permit, therefore, the third chapter of the Chronicles must close, with Simon's blessing on all his readers.

CHAPTER FOUR.

1. A few days after judgment had been given in favor of the Chief Priest, Nelson issued his mandate commanding James the Vigilant to appear before him.

2. Now the charge upon which James was arraigned was similar to the one upon which the Chief Priest had been acquitted, therefore, men said, Why does Nelson seek to cri-

minate James, when, on a like accusation, the Chief Priest has been tried and acquitted.

3. But who can fathom man's heart? Verily, Simon concludeth that to all save one, the secrets therein are hidden mysteries, therefore, I say, judge mercifully of Nelson's conduct; for although it looks like persecution, ye know not whether the incentive to action was a love of justice, or personal feeling and a desire for revenge.

4. All that I, Simon, knoweth is, thus and so did he, and that ye, my beloved readers, may be wise in your generation, I record these things for your instruction.

5. Know, then, that when James received the summons to appear before Nelson the second time, he examined the wording thereof microscopically, and having found a serious flaw therein, determined to take advantage of his knowledge of the law to defeat Nelson.

6. And when the day came upon which Nelson had commanded him to appear before him, behold he stood before the judgment seat.

7. Now other judges sat thereon with Nelson, namely: Alexander the Immoveable, Michael, surnamed *Jars*, Richard the Cunning, Arthur the Chief of the Tribe, and Isaac, but William the son of Thom absented himself, and in so doing he was right.

8. And the people marvelled greatly when they saw Alexander and Richard taking part in the proceedings; and some wept for the future of their country, when such men took sides, the one with Nelson, the other with James, for it was too apparent that the prejudices of the Dreamers and the Sleepers, more than a sense of right or justice, actuated them that day.

9. And Simon, to show how much Alexander and Richard had this matter at heart records that during a sultry day, and under the scorching rays of the noontide sun, Alexander, perspiring at every pore, travelled wearily to the chief town to be sworn, whilst Richard, fearing the consequences of so rash an act, chose the evening for his journey, and returned to his house at midnight, shivering and shaking with cold.

10. Thus each of these men brought upon themselves instant punishment for their interference.

11. Now when Nelson asked James why he should not punish him for his delinquency to the Overseer, James pointed out to him the flaw he had discovered in the mandate.

12. And the judges who sat with Nelson reasoned toge-

ther concerning the objection raised by James, and after a time, some were found for and some against the validity thereof; the Sleepers viewing it one way and the Dreamers another.

13. And Alexander and Richard contested the matter stiffly, and for a time it was hip and thigh between them, when the Dreamers gave way, and James was set at liberty.

14. Now Nelson liked this not, so he issued another mandate for James, and he caused him to be brought before him on the thirtieth day of the seventh month.

15. And several other Judges appeared that day, making the whole number ten.

16. And David surnamed *Brun*, and — the son of Iron, was also among them.

17. Now Nelson liked not the appearance of things that morning, so he determined that Richard only should assist him that day.

18. But at that time Richard was collecting tribute, so he sent for him, but he came not; so he sent a second time, and behold, then he came.

19. And when he came, Nelson explained to him what he required of him, but Richard's cunning got the better of his love for the Dreamers, and he declined sitting with Nelson. He saw a scrape ahead, and backed out. Glorious Dick!

20. William the son of Thom also refused, giving good and sufficient reasons for so doing. And what said Nelson unto him? Nothing more nor less than, You will sit with me when I ask you! Glorious Nelson!

21. Then Nelson seated himself on the judgment seat, and said, Isaac my acquaintance, and brother Judges,—It appeareth unto me that there is a very large assemblage of Judges present to try a very insignificant case; for the matter is not too weighty for me, *who can outlift any man in this territory, therefore, I am determined to take it up alone, though it break mine arms*, consequently ye may all go home.

22. And when he had finished speaking, behold, David and Alexander opened their mouths and spake, and after dressing Nelson down a bit, left the judgment hall. The other Judges also declined sitting with Nelson that day.

23. Thus, therefore, James was tried by Nelson only, and Nelson found him guilty, and fined him two shekels and the costs, from which judgment James appealed, for he considered himself ill-used.

24. Before closing the history of this affair, Simon would

point out to his disciples the frailty and insufficiency of human judgment, and warn them against permitting party feeling or prejudices entering their breasts or guiding their judgment, when called upon to decide any matter. In this case, two persons were accused of one offence—the one was acquitted, the other convicted; whilst there can not be the slightest shadow of a doubt that they were equally innocent or guilty.

BOOK TEN.—CHAPTER ONE.

1. Now it came to pass that on the 18th day of the 8th month, the chiefs of the several tribes inhabiting the land from the country of the Little Hills on the west, to the Great River on the east, and from the Great Lake on the south, to the country of the Niagarains on the north, met together at the great Council Chamber, near the meeting of the waters.

2. Now the names of the chiefs and the parties they represented are as follows:—John, chief of the Pelhamites, formerly Chief Sachem of all the tribes; Arthur, chief of the Bertieites; James, chief of the Chippawas; Gilbert, chief of the Cliftonians; William, first chief, and James, second chief of the Thoroldites; Leonard chief of the Crowlanders; Jacob, chief the Wainfleetonians; Daniel, chief the Willoughbyites; William, first chief, and John, second chief of the Stamfordites; John, chief of the little nation of the Thoroldites; and Daniel, chief of the Humberstonites.

3. And Dexter, one of the tribe of the Pelhamites, was their chief scribe.

4. Now when they had taken their seats and gazed at each other for a few minutes in silence, and the people of the several tribes who had gone there to catch the words of wisdom which might accidentally fall from their chieftains' mouths, had begun to ask themselves—what next?

5. Behold, Gilbert got up, and with the laws of the Sanhedrim in his hands, read therefrom; and when he had finished reading, told the chieftains that John, their old Sachem, should be their Chief Sachem for the next four moons.

6. And when he had finished speaking, and had sat him down, William, chief of the Stamfordites, opened his mouth and the laws of the Sanhedrim at one and the same time, and spake and read from the laws of the Sanhedrim, and told the chieftains that by those laws John should not be

their Chief Sachem for the next four moons without their consent,

7. Now John, second chief of the same tribe, backed his chief in all he said ; but he perplexed William greatly, for he did not wait until William sat down, but kept talking whilst William was addressing the chieftains.

8. Then got up James, Chief of the Chippawas, and he spake after the manner of Gilbert, and followed in his footsteps.

9. After him followed William, chief of the Thoroldites, who said that he had thought once as his brother chieftain of the Stamfordites, but that he had conversed with a man learned in the law, who told him that the Sanhedrim had provided for this thing, and that John, their old Sachem, must be Sachem still.

10. Now William, chief of the Stamfordites, was yet unconvinced, and he called on all the chieftains to lay naked their thoughts to their brethren.

11. Then James, second chief of the Thoroldites, and John, chief of the little nation of the same people, and Daniel, of the Humberstonians, spake one after another, and they agreed that John should be re-elected Sachem before he undertook to govern them.

12. But Leonard, and Jacob, and Arthur, chieftains of the Crowlanders, Wainfleetites, and Bertieites, and William, chief of the Thoroldites, and Gilbert and James, opposed them, and spake against what they had said.

13. Then John, the old Sachem, rose up and expounded the law ; and when he had finished, it was plain to see that he had an understanding with Gilbert and James, and a strong affection for his old office.

14. Now all matters on which the chieftains disagree are decided by a majority, and whichever side is the stronger gains the victory.

15. Therefore, when John saw that the greater number were with him, he went and took his seat as Chief Sachem.

16. Then John rose up and thanked the chieftains for their confidence in him, but as the law then stood, he thought they could not have helped themselves.

17. And he laid before them a programme of what he wished them to do, and a number of petitions from the people of the several tribes.

18. Then the chieftains divided themselves into threes and fours, which they called committees, and proceeded to hold separate *pou-wow's* in the different council rooms.

19. And I, even I, Simon the Elder, finding the meeting

of the chieftains uninteresting, put on my sandals, took up my scrip and staff, and travelled to my tent.

20. And the rest of the acts of the chieftains, lo! are they not written in the second chapter of the tenth book of these Chronicles.

CHAPTER SECOND.

1. And after I, Simon, had sojourned in the land of Nod for a season, behold, I returned unto the Great Judgment Hall and awaited the gathering of the chiefs.

2. Then the Sachem got up and read an epistle from one Sam, a measurer of ground and finder of levels, demanding payment for a large tract of land which former chieftains had purchased from Sam's mistress the Queen.

3. Now these lands lay near the country of the Little Hills, and are inhabited only by frogs, lizards, snakes, tadpoles and cat-fish. Here it is that the great demon, Ague, holds his court; here it is also that Miasma, the mother of the demon Ague, has lived in great state for many years.

4. And it came to pass every year, that when the demon had shook the croak out of the frogs, the whistle out of the lizards, the tails off the tadpoles, and the fins from the catfish in his dominions, that he sent his mother Miasma nightly over the country round about, to prospect and report to him all those people who drank strong drink and staid out late at night, as well as they who slept with the gates of their inheritance open.

5. Then stalked the demon forth and seized those persons, and shook them until the very bones in their skins rattled, and so cold and clammy were the demon's claws that when he touched those people, he froze the very blood in their veins, so that neither the heat of the sun, which thaws ice and warms the very bowels of the earth, nor any artificial heat could warm them.

6. And oh! it was fearful to behold the miseries of those people, even the demon would pity them, and breathe upon them to thaw them, and behold the cold would leave them, but from his hot and fearful breath a raging heat would almost consume them, and then for a time he would depart from them, and they would be as other men.

7. Now these people would go to John, the Chief Sachem, and purchase from him a charm to shake off the power of the demon, and to secure them against being his victims ; and John amassed great wealth thereby.

8. Now the Queen owned the territory occupied by the demon and his mother, and as she did not disturb the demon, nor attempt to drive him therefrom,

9. It came to pass that at one of the meetings of the chieftains, John the Chief Sachem told all these things to them, and advised them to purchase the territory of the demon from the Queen.

10. And that when they had purchased the territory, he would show them how to drive the demon therefrom, and place the inhabitants round about in security.

11. Now some of the chieftains agreed with John, and some differed with him, for, said they who agreed not with him, our people are safe—we live in a part of the country so dry that the demon you speak of can not exist, nor do our people drink strong drink, nor do they remain out late in the evening, nor do they leave the gates of their inheritance open when they sleep.

12. Then John, finding that he could not get a sufficient number of the chieftains to agree to authorize him to purchase the territory, changed his argument, and spake to them of the fertility of the soil of that territory, and the great value of the lands thereof, and how easily and cheaply he could get possession of them from the Queen, and how quickly he could drive the demon and his mother therefrom, and how he would divide the profits with them all.

13. And they hearkened unto him, and purchased the lands.

14. Then John hired many men, and sent them into that territory to cut great ditches to drain off the waters, for he knew that neither Miasma nor her son could exist without plenty of that element.

15. And he told them to cause the waters to run swiftly, and to allow them not to stand in pools, for swift running water is an abomination to those demons.

16. But when the men went into the territory, the demon seized them and shook them beautifully ; and for a time it was rare work ; John using his charms—the demon shaking the men—and the men digging the ditches.

17. And after a time, when the men came out of the territory to purchase more clothing—for the demon had shook what they took with them to pieces—their friends knew them not, and they were in danger of being buried alive, for the

sextons of the country round about thought they were desert-ers from the grave yards under their charge, and hunted after them to secure them, and take them back and re-bury them.

18. And several were overtaken by the sextons, but when they gave their names and occupation, the sextons released them, saying, Go in peace, but 'tis only for a short time ; verily, we shall have your feet to the daisies soon.

19. Now these works and these things continue even unto this day, and great ditches have been dug, and the demon has been surrounded, but he has not yet surrendered. For a long time the fight has been kept up between John and his army of diggers and the demon, and many men have been shook to pieces, and much money spent, and yet the people are no more secured against the attacks of the demon than heretofore.

20. It was upon the credit of this territory that John and his friends went to Quebec, and that all the wonderful things have been done in the country of the Little Hills, for money is more plentiful there now than heretofore, and those who went on foot before these lands were purchased from the Queen, now drive in chariots.

21. And no security was given or taken for the silver and gold for which some of these lands were sold, but many had the fingering thereof, and each one did that which was right in their own eyes.

22. But now that Sam, in the name of the Queen, asks for payment for those lands, behold John and his friends are struck dumb, for they well knew where the cash is gone to.

23. Verily, verily, I say unto ye all, the end is not yet.

CHAPTER THIRD.

1. Now the chieftains found that if they did not make a show of doing something in the matter about which Sam had written in the name of the Queen, that serious trouble might follow, and they consulted together for some time.

2. Then Daniel, chief of the Humberstonites, and John, chief of the Little Thoroldites, proposed that the Chief Sachem and Jacob, chief of the Wainfleetonians, and Leonard chief of the Crowlanders, should go into the lands about which Sam had written, and hold a secret pow-wow there.

3. That they should ascertain how far John and his army

of diggers had driven the Demon Ague from the haunts of civilization, and whether he would surrender or not.

4. That they should find out what lands had been wrested from his rule, and how much thereof could be sold to pay Sam.

5. And that they should put all these things in writing, and lay the same before the chieftains when they next met together.

6. Thus did the chieftans dispose of this matter.

7. Then Gilbert, chief of the Cliftonians, and William chief of the Thoroldites, called the chieftains together, and asked them how much they would give to see all the fat cattle, sheep and swine, for hundreds of miles round about, collected together at the cataract.

8. Now for several years it had been the business of a certain number of men to collect all the silver and gold they could, and to give notice to all the people that they would meet at a certain place on a certain day, and divide the same among the owners of cattle, sheep and swine, and various other things.

9. And on that day, the people would take their cattle, yea, and almost all they possessed which was moveable, to the place named, and whoever had the fattest, largest, or best, got a certain sum of money, and the next best a certain lesser sum, and so on in lesser sums, according to the judgment or taste of the judges, until the money collected was all gone.

10. Now these assemblages of the people were at first small, and the cattle and other articles which they brought with them not numerous, but each year they increased vastly in numbers and quality, until it was found that the money collected was altogether insufficient for the purpose intended.

11. Therefore these men who had undertaken to collect all the people, and the swine, and other things, gave notice that they would go only where they were paid, and that those who paid them best should have the pleasure of their company.

12. Then arose a great strife among the people of the towns and villages, cities and country places, to secure the company of those men, and they bid high against each other, and used every stratagem to gain the good will of those men.

13. That the cattle, and sheep, and swine, chariots and horses, manufactures of silver and gold, and all other things which were yearly exposed to the gaze of the multitude by those men, might be brought into their neighborhood.

14. The people came from the north and from the south, from the east and from the west, at a great sacrifice of time and money, to gaze upon things collected together, which separately they could see every day, and they staid in the neighborhood all the time the things were exposed, namely, three days.

15. And they spent much treasure in the neighborhood while they tarried.

16. Now none of these meetings had been held near the great cataract.

17. Therefore, Gilbert asked the chieftains how much they would give of the treasure committed to their charge by the people over whom they ruled.

18. Now some two or three of the chieftains opposed Gilbert's desire, and spake against it, for, said they, it is wrong to tempt the people with a sight of that which they can not enjoy.

19. For peradventure many will go there and see fat oxen, and sheep, and swine, and their bowels will yearn after the flesh of the same, and they will be unable to gratify their desires.

20. And for many days thereafter their imaginations will dwell upon the flesh they have seen and tasted not of, and they will be discontented with their humble fare, and all that their wives set before them to eat will remain untouched.

21. Therefore much misery will ensue, much treasure be wasted, much time spent, and no good follow, so we can not give anything—neither silver nor gold.

22. Then arose Gilbert and said, Be not blind, my brother chieftains, unto that which is good, and shut not thine ears against the wishes of thy followers, nor the words of me, thy brother.

23. But consider the state of our country, and the quality of the flocks which roamed over our fertile lands before men met together and vied with each other in having the fattest and the best; remember the poverty of the cattle and the leanness of the swine in those days, then gaze upon the sleekness and fatness of those of the present day, and say if thou can'st that no good has followed.

24. In former times, men built fences higher, stronger, and closer than at present, and spent much treasure thereon, to keep their poor cattle from roaming over and destroying the grain of their neighbors, and failed; they tied knots in the tails of their swine, to prevent them squeezing through the smallest apertures in the fences; and put hopples on

their sheep, and yet they were sorely troubled with their herds and flocks.

25. But now these animals are gentle and quiet, and seek to do no mischief.

26. And the chieftains hearkened unto Gilbert, and gave two thousand shekels, or thereabouts, towards having those men hold a meeting near the great cataract.

CHAPTER FOUR.

1. It came to pass on the 20th day of the 8th month, in the twentieth year of the reign of the great Queen, at a meeting of the chieftains of the territory over which John was Chief Sachem, that certain of the chiefs were appointed to view the land that John had coveted, and had purchased from the governor of the land in which he dwelt.

2. Now the names of the chieftains appointed to this duty were John, the Chief Sachem, and chieftain of the Pelhamites, Daniel, chief of the Humberstonians, Leonard, chief of the Crowlanders, and Jacob, chief of the Wainfleetites.

3. And they were commissioned, saying, go search out and view the land, even the great Cranberry swamp, and bring us word again concerning its waters and water courses, and the prospect of peopling it with intelligent beings.

4. And behold the four chieftains met on the nine and twentieth day of the same month, at a place where two artificial rivers meet, and went towards the south a distance of about thirty furlongs, and when they had crossed the great waters where many large ships do sail, they came to the land which they were to spy out.

5. And behold, there accompanied them a man named John, a sister's son of John, the Chief Sachem. Now this John came from a distant part of the country, from a small town on the bank of the great river St. Lawrence, and he was ex-chieftain of the same,

6. And this man said unto John, the Chief Sachem, behold you and your people are wise, and in order to prove this he showed them the great house that John and his friends had caused to be built, at a very great cost to the people of the territory over which John ruled ; howbeit the people of the territory said nay, we are a quiet people, and do not need so large a Judgment Hall, neither do we require so large a Prison-house.

7. And when he had seen the land, even the great Cranberry Swamp, and the ditches, which John, Chief Sachem and his chieftains had caused to be built, he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, I have not seen the like of you for improvements, no, not in all the land.

8. And of the great Swamp he said, behold a goodly land, when ye shall have drawn off the waste waters thereof, and thrown out the present inhabitants, even the frogs, snakes and musquitoes, ye shall plant the lands with goodly seeds. it shall return ye the fruits of your labor, even an hundred fold, for the land is like unto an Eden for fruitfulness.

9. And he reproved John, Chief Sachem, sorely for not taking to wife a daughter of one of the inhabitants of the land, and raise up seed unto him; that his name perish not; but John the Chief, heeded him not.

10. Now, these four chieftains went upon the back of the stream which John and his friends had caused to be made; even the great ditch, and they viewed the land and the waters as they went, and gathered some of the fruits thereof.

11. And they returned on the fifteenth day of the ninth month of the same year, and behold John and his chieftains were assembled in the great Judgment Hall, to hear what word these chieftains had brought unto them.

12. Now when the chieftains were all seated, with John, the Chief Sachem at the head of the table, with Dexter, the Scribe, upon the left hand, and when John had commanded them all to keep silence, that they might hear what word these four chieftains had brought unto them.

13. Then Jacob, chief of the Wainfleetites, arose with a scroll in his hand, and said unto John and his chieftains, ye wise men of this territory, even the County of Welland, behold we have viewed the land which ye commanded us to do, and lo! we find it a land of great depth of vegetable deposit, which, when properly, tilled, will yield crops of various kinds of fruit and herbage, and we advise ye to sell certain parts thereof, about the first day of the eleventh month of this present year.

14. Now John, the Chief Sachem, talks loudly about visiting a far-off country in the west before many more moons, and as some of his chieftains have recommended him to sell certain of the lands before mentioned. Simon hopes the expenses of the journey will not, like the visit to Quebec, be charged to the Marsh Lands account, and for the present, sayeth no more, and thus endeth the first ten books of the Chronicles of the Cataract.







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